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FROM THE EDITOR

The bulk of this special issue of *World Soccer* is dedicated to reviewing the season across the European continent. That's as it should be: a reminder of why we all follow the sport in the first place. But we cannot avoid the extraordinary events in Zurich over the past month, culminating in the decision of Sepp Blatter to "lay down his mandate" as FIFA president – though not, as yet, tender his resignation.

The biggest crisis in FIFA's history is by no means over. Almost every day there have been new eye-popping revelations of corruption. Blatter has clung on as, one by one, his regional bosses – Warner, Blazer, Bin Hammam, Hayatou, Leoz, Teixeira – have been exposed. Somehow, he has remained above the fray. Is he corrupt for turning a blind eye? Or incompetent for not challenging them? Probably both.

It says everything about FIFA that it took an investigation by the FBI to uncover the corruption that so many had warned about for so long. The corrupting culture that Blatter allowed to flourish throughout the organisation has now been exposed for all to see. His self-aggrandisement created a machine that was ruthless in its pursuit of money to fund the political patronage that kept him in power. Under Blatter's direction, FIFA morphed from an amateur sporting body into a global corporation with aggressive commercial aspirations, but its political structures have remained frozen in time.

Is Blatter corrupt for turning a blind eye or incompetent for not challenging his regional bosses?

The great danger is that any successor to Blatter fails to recognise the need for fundamental change. Over the coming months, the debate needs to be thorough and widespread. The English-speaking media has played a leading role in exposing corruption at FIFA, but any debate needs to extend way beyond these shores.

Around the world, there is huge resentment towards Europe, and the Premier League in particular, for taking players, fans and TV money away from local leagues. It's a huge imbalance that Blatter never challenged. But there is now the need, more than ever, for something to change.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

FIFA CRISIS

The end of a rotten Empire

Sepp Blatter's resignation marked the culmination of the most dramatic crisis in FIFA's history. Keir Radnedge reports

"This is the World Cup of fraud. Today we are issuing FIFA with a red card"

Richard Weber of the Internal Revenue Service

May 27, 2015, will go down in FIFA's history as the day which unveiled the worst corruption scandal in the world federation's history; a scandal which not only swallowed up individuals but laid bare a rotten culture at the heart of the pinnacle of the people's game.

Not least among the scandalised elements was that those FIFA staff undertaking valuable work around the world – using football as a tool for education, health and social welfare – were tarred by the sins of a ruling clique, some of whose members had long mined the system for personal gold.

And it all fell apart on the eve of FIFA's Congress week.

Congress has long followed a traditional pattern, in which, two or three days in advance, the ExCo meets to ensure that no disagreeable outbursts hit the stage in front of the world. The surrounding days are then taken up with pre-Congress conferences of the six regional confederations at their chosen luxury hotels, in this year's case in Zurich. None, however, match in luxury of the lakeside Baur au Lac which has been the FIFA ExCo's home-from-home since the days of Joao Havelange.

Candidates...Blatter with Prince Ali

All appeared in order as the ExCo ended on the Tuesday. The assorted confederation presidents, most of them FIFA vice-presidents, plus their regional delegates had endorsed president Sepp Blatter's attempt to find a compromise over the thorny issue of Palestine's bid to force Israel's suspension in the freedom-of-access saga.

Beyond that, Blatter appeared to be sailing serenely towards a decisive first-round knockout victory over Jordan's Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein – the last challenger standing after the withdrawals of Michael Van Praag and Luis Figo – in the presidential election.

Later, Blatter and Prince Ali each paid brief visits to the CONCACAF conference, presided over by Jeffrey Webb. But so low-key was the atmosphere that Asia and Oceania cancelled their conferences. Both had recently staged their own congresses and had nothing more to discuss; the vast majority of their votes had long since been pledged to Blatter.

Then, at 6am the following morning, everything changed as Swiss police knocked on seven doors in the Baur au Lac and informed the rooms' occupants that arrest warrants had been issued at the request of the US Justice Department.

Over the next half hour, the seven – with their immediate belongings tossed into black bags – were ushered into unmarked cars with their exits masked by pristine-laundered white bed sheets.

The seven were FIFA vice-president Jeffrey Webb, head of CONCACAF (Cayman Islands); outgoing FIFA vice-president Eugenio Figueredo (Uruguay); incoming FIFA ExCo member Eduardo Li (Costa Rica); former Brazilian CBF president Jose Maria Marin; Julio Rocha (president of the Nicaragua FA); Costas Takkas (Webb's aide and former general secretary of the Cayman Islands FA); and Rafael Esquivel (FIFA disciplinary committee member and Venezuela federation head).

At 6am, everything changed as the Swiss police knocked on seven doors in the Baur au Lac

Simultaneously, but in a separate investigation of their own, Swiss police turned up at FIFA headquarters in the search for further documentation about the 2018-2022 World Cup bid scandal.

The timing was no coincidence on two levels. Firstly, the Swiss attorney-general's office, handed the contentious Garcia Report into the 2018-22 World Cup bid scandal last November by FIFA itself, felt pressed to appear up to speed with its own investigation. Secondly, the presence of the world's football leaders in one city simplified the arrests process. That Congress was two days away merely exacerbated the drama.

Sign of the times... protesters sense it's all over for FIFA

Raid...police descend on the Zurich hotel

Shortly afterwards, the US Justice Department confirmed that it was chasing down nine present and past FIFA officials as well as five "corporate executives" for "racketeering, conspiracy and corruption".

Charges focused on bribery and money-laundering allegations in connection with rights awards in the central and north American and Caribbean region for World Cup qualifiers, the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the CONCACAF Champions League, the CONMEBOL/CONCACAF Centenary Copa America, the Copa America, the Libertadores Cup and the Brazilian Cup.

Also under investigation were payments in connection with the sponsorship of the CBF by a major US sportswear company (Nike), the selection of the host country for the 2010 World Cup and the 2011 FIFA presidential election.

The investigation had been built on the admissions of former CONCACAF general-

secretary (and former FIFA ExCo member) Chuck Blazer, and Daryll and Daryan Warner, two sons of infamous ex-CONCACAF president Jack Warner.

The Brazilian entrepreneur Jose Hawilla had also cut a deal, agreeing to forfeit a staggering $150million-plus.

Blazer had been "turned" by the FBI after the fallout from the cash-for-votes scandal in Port of Spain in May 2011, when Warner had organised a presidential-bid conference for Qatar's Mohamed Bin Hammam...which was followed by $40,000 cash gifts to each Caribbean member delegation for "expenses".

Some refused and reported back to Blazer, who then "shopped" Warner and Bin Hammam. However, further inquiries ▸

Turned...FBI informant Blazer

Lasana LIBURD
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Will Warner finally face justice?

There are two stories that best tell the tale of one-time CONCACAF president Jack Warner and ex general-secretary Chuck Blazer: that Blazer used CONCACAF funds to rent an apartment in Trump Tower for his cats, and that Warner allegedly misappropriated roughly $690,000 in aid relief funds meant for Haiti, after the devastating 2010 Port-au-Prince earthquake.

While Blazer, an American, confessed to the FBI four years ago and has been a co-operative witness ever since, Warner remains on the run and has vowed to give the United States Department of Justice a lengthy tour of the Trinidad & Tobago judicial system.

He has also threatened prime minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar he will publish incriminating evidence against her government if he is extradited, ahead of the general election on the two-island republic on September 7.

Warner's last stand, on a tiny Caribbean nation with a population of below 1.5million, is a local affair. Despite his teases about leaking embattled FIFA president Sepp Blatter's dirty secrets, he knows his only chance of avoiding a US cell lies in testing the will of T&T's justice system.

Warner...millions of dollars have passed through his hands

And the fact that he is the MP for Chaguanas West, a constituency of roughly 28,000 people, says much about the unsophisticated view of white-collar crime within sections of the country.

Warner's longevity in FIFA's world of bribes and bid-rigging had little do with his nationality. The Trinidadian's rise owed much to the democratic system of "one country, one vote" that former FIFA president Stanley Rous implemented but his successor, Brazilian Joao Havelange, exploited.

Havelange took over the FIFA reigns in 1974, just months after Warner became the T&T FA's general-secretary. By the time Havelange stepped down in 1998, CONCACAF had grown from 22 to 35 members – roughly 16 percent of the FIFA electorate – and Warner, with Blazer's help, had whipped them into a single voting bloc.

Warner might have ended in a cell before he had time to spread his wings. In 1990, the T&T government launched an enquiry into the controversial administrator after the scandal of its final Italia 1990 World Cup qualifying match against the United States. The national team only needed a draw to progress and were heavy favourites. But the fixture became chaotic long before the opening whistle, as Warner flouted several FIFA match-day regulations and, more worryingly, sold more than double the capacity of the National Stadium's 22,000 seats.

But rather than censure Warner, FIFA gave Trinidad & Tobago a "Fair Play Award" for the scandalous events of November 19 1989. And CONCACAF officials, at Havelange's urging, even elected the Trinidadian as their president.

Warner used both honours as leverage, arguing that the world was praising his stewardship while his compatriots tried to crucify him. He suggested that, due to his new post, any legal proceedings would damage the country's reputation – something that was to become a regular theme for Warner, who found countries happy to ignore the law to win his favour.

South Africa's $10m payment to Warner, via FIFA, for a non-existent "Diaspora Legacy Programme" has become an example of the corrupt World Cup bidding process.

As the filmed chat about Mohamed Bin Hammam's $40,000 "gift" to members of Caribbean Football Union suggested, Warner was never big on discretion.

The CONCACAF president succeeded because he and FIFA's other crooked officials were considered a necessary evil to many of football's stakeholders throughout the world.

By then, the millions of dollars laundered into Warner's tiny home island had passed through so many hands that, in June 2015, even Archbishop Joseph Harris referred to the disgraced official as a friend and admitted that the Roman Catholic church benefitted from his generosity.

The US Attorney General, however, will not be as easily swayed.

As the noose tightens, Warner has vowed to embarrass his former "friends" into protecting him from "meddling outsiders" and extradition. His next court hearing is on July 9.

Warner has beat justice many times before, often without ever being called to the stand. He avoided punishment for November 19 and the Haiti aid scandal – among others – while, despite his disgraceful FIFA exit in 2011, he was allowed to keep the multi-million dollar Centre of Excellence, which is his main money spinner at present.

The US Department of Justice might be the only body left with the might and will to hold him accountable. WS

"The FIFA president, secretary-general and communications director are in a car. Who's driving? The police"

FIFA communications chief Walter De Gregorio cracks a joke on Swiss television...and then resigns

revealed the multi-million extent to which Blazer had been cashing-in himself. That alerted the US tax authorities and the FBI, and led all the way to the FIFA humiliation of May 27, 2015.

Later in the day, Loretta Lynch, the US Attorney General, FBI director James B Comey and Richard Weber of the Internal Revenue Service's criminal investigation department laid out the case against the 14 being sought over corruption allegations concerning more than $150m.

In addition to the "Zurich Seven", these included Warner, Nicolas Leoz (former president of the Paraguayan and South American federation and one-time ExCo member), sports marketing executives Alejandro Burzaco, Aaron Davidson (president of the NASL and Traffic Sports USA which owns Carolina RailHawks), Hugo Jinkis and Mariano Jinkis, plus alledged intermediary, Jose Margulies.

Lynch was specific in explaining that

"The indictment alleges corruption that is rampant, systematic and deep rooted, both abroad and in the US"

Loretta Lynch, US Attorney General

her department had been empowered because the offences had been committed within US criminal and financial jurisdiction. She did not pull any punches.

"The indictment alleges corruption that is rampant, systemic, and deep-rooted both abroad and here in the United States," said Lynch. "It spans at least two generations of soccer officials who, as alleged, have abused their positions of trust to acquire millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks.

"It has profoundly harmed a multitude of victims, from the youth leagues and developing countries that should benefit from the revenue generated by the commercial rights these organizations hold, to the fans at home and throughout the world whose support for the game makes those rights valuable.

"Today's action makes clear that this Department of Justice intends to end any such corrupt practices, to root out misconduct, and to bring wrongdoers to justice – and we look forward to continuing to work with other countries in this effort."

Back in Zurich, the Swiss Attorney General announced his intention to interview the 10 men who had been members of the FIFA ExCo in 2010, over recollections of the 2018-2022 bid ballot.

Main topic...the home page of Interpol's website

The 10 were: Michel D'Hooghe (Belgium), Jacques Anouma (Ivory Coast), Marios Lefkaritis (Cyprus), Angel Maria Villar (Spain), Senes Erzik (Turkey), Worawi Makudi (Thailand), Issa Hayatou (Cameroon), Hany Abo Rida (Egypt), Vitaly Mutko (Russia) and Rafael Salguero (Guatemala). Five of these – Anouma, Erzik, Makudi, Abo Rida and Salguero – had been due to step down from the ExCo at Congress on Friday.

US and Swiss authorities indicated there was no immediate prospect of Blatter himself being accused and/or arrested.

FIFA summoned a hasty press conference at which a brazen comment by communications director Walter De Gregorio, that this was "a good day" for the world federation was greeted with hoots of derision by journalists.

If FIFA can rebuild and restructure then maybe, one long-distant day in the future, he may be proved correct, but the steady flow of new revelations was nothing in which to take pride. At a time when humility was needed, the comment encapsulated perceptions that FIFA's ruling clique was utterly out of touch with expectations of the game at large.

Prince Ali, his suspicions about some of his ExCo colleagues vindicated, said: "We cannot go on like this."

Even more strident was Sharan Burrow, the general-secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation which has lambasted FIFA over Qatari labour laws, who insisted Blatter quit now.

The Swiss and US investigations had delved back to the early 1990s when Blatter was already ensconced as FIFA general-secretary and chief executive, ahead of becoming president in 1998.

Blatter, in a massive understatement, took responsibility for "the unfortunate events" of the past, but believed he was still the right man to clean up the mess.

Subsequently, FIFA's independent ethics judge, Hans-Joachim Eckert, suspended

Specific...Lynch

from all football activities 11 of the 14 over which it had power: Webb, Li, Rocha, Takkas, Jack Warner, Figueredo, Esquivel, Marin, Leoz, Blazer and Daryll Warner.

Little had been heard, so far, from UEFA since European football's leaders were in Warsaw for the Europa League Final. In Poland, general-secretary Gianni Infantino suggested congress should be suspended, but early the following Thursday morning, Michel Platini found UEFA in a minority of one when he flew in to Zurich.

Blatter had excused himself from opening the second day of a FIFA medical conference to summon a meeting of the FIFA emergency committee.

With Webb and Figueredo "otherwise detained", Blatter and Platini were joined by David Chung (Oceania), Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalia (AFC), incoming

Brazen...De Gregorio said it was a "good day"

CONMEBOL president Juan Angel Napout, Lydia Nsekera (Burundi) on behalf of CAF leader Issa Hayatou, and Rafael Salguero (Guatemala) on behalf of CONCACAF's new interim president Alfredo Hawit (Honduras).

All the other confederations wanted to go ahead with both Congress and the election. Platini acquiesced before pursuing one last attempt to persuade Blatter to stand down.

Later Platini recalled: "I said to him: 'We started together in 1998 [when Blatter first became president] and we won together for FIFA, and now I'm asking you to leave FIFA, to step down. We are giving out a terrible image. We can't continue this way.

"After the meeting we discussed this ▸

Tim VICKERY

BRAZIL

TV rights and wrongs

In 1980 an obscure Brazilian journalist called Jose (usually referred to simply as J) Hawilla bought Traffic, a company that had specialised in bus-stop adverts. Within a few years he had transformed South American football.

He quickly took control of the business of pitch-side advertising boards in Brazil, but the big deal was a continent-wide TV scoop. In 1986, Paraguay's Nicolas Leoz began his long reign as CONMEBOL president. The following year, after it had fallen into disuse, the Copa America was brought back as a made-for-TV competition,with the rights sold by Traffic. It was the start of a long and fruitful partnership – which seemed to turn sour in November 2011.

Traffic believed that they owned the rights to the 2015 Copa, with an option on future tournaments, but CONMEBOL granted the rights to Full Play, an Argentinian company. Traffic took the matter to court in Florida, and Hawilla was declared *persona non grata* by CONMEBOL.

The outcome was an agreement where Traffic agreed to share the rights with Full Play and Ty C, another Argentinian concern. The three formed a company called Datisa, based in Uruguay.

The fact that Hawilla had sought legal regress in a US court is significant, and not without its ironies. Looking to expand, Traffic had set up US branches – and they had always had an eye on opportunities to the north. The company were prime movers in the addition of two extra teams in the Copa America from 1993 as it was a way to get a piece of the giant Mexican TV market. The logical conclusion of this was the bizarre decision of CONMEBOL to celebrate 100 years of its national team competition on US soil – the 2016 Centenary Copa America, to which Datisa hold the rights – but which may now not take place.

The TV contract for the competition is part of the US investigation into football corruption. After working so hard to bring the US into the global game, Hawilla has now proved a victim of its legal system. Last December he pleaded guilty to engaging in conspiracy to racketeer, to commit wire fraud and to launder money, and also to obstruction of justice. He instantly paid back $25million and has agreed to pay back a total of $151m – testament to the profitability of the link-up between football and TV.

Guilty...Hawilla

It is entirely probable that Hawilla is a leading source of evidence for the charges being brought against "the FIFA 14" – the nine officials from either CONMEBOL or CONCACAF FAs and the five corporate executives, drawn from the three companies in the Datisa umbrella.

The interface between these two groups is where the bribes and the kickbacks have exchanged hands – over a 24-year period, according to the US investigation.

It is fair to say that the accusations of financial malpractice have not come as a total surprise to the South American audience. But the US investigation has emboldened local police and politicians to make enquiries into people who were previously seen as untouchable. The shock waves will be felt for some time in the administration of the continent's game.

These years of marriage between football and TV have been beneficial to South America's national teams – especially the less traditional ones, who have profited from the relaunch of the Copa America and, especially, from the introduction of the marathon format of World Cup qualification. With many more competitive games to play – and to sell to the TV stations – standards have risen. The last three World Cups have seen best-ever performances from Ecuador, Paraguay and Colombia, while the last two have been the best from Chile with the exception of 1962, which they hosted. The continent's national-team football can boast an unprecedented strength in depth.

Big player...Traffic re-started the Copa America and sold the broadcast rights

It is the clubs who have far more reason to feel aggrieved. The distance between club football in Europe and South America has never been wider. That, of course, is not helped by the fact that the South American clubs are being short-changed by TV deals based on bribery and crony capitalism.

Of course, the financial weakness of the clubs creates a necessity for players to be sold – with more opportunities for money to be siphoned off into private bank accounts. WS

"Beginning in and around 2004 and continuing through 2011, I and others agreed to accept bribes in conjunction with the selection of South Africa"

Chuck Blazer says he and fellow ExCo members took bribes in the run-up to choosing the host of the 2010 World Cup

between the two of us in his office and I repeated that he should step down.

"Times were tough and he needed to have the stature to recognise the situation. He said to me: 'I like you but it's too late. I can't leave now when congress starts only this evening.'"

Hence, in the context of Platini's pleading, a worldwide storm of criticism, a threat from David Gill not to take up his seat as Britain's vice-president plus expressions of worried concern from the World Cup sponsors, Blatter took to the stage for the sparkly, showbiz-style opening ceremony to congress that evening.

He warned of "more bad news ahead" after events which had "cast a long shadow over football and over this week's congress. The action of individuals brings shame and humiliation on football and demands action and change from us all. We cannot allow the reputation of football and of FIFA to be dragged through the mud any longer. It has to stop here and now."

Already matters had gone too far for Swiss sports minister Ueli Maurer, who responded that FIFA had fallen down on its primary duty to provide an example to the football family around the world.

Then Olympic president Thomas Bach warned that trying to root out FIFA's corruption culture would prove a long and painful task.

Any faux-party atmosphere was finally dispelled for Blatter when he learned, on leaving the ceremony, that Marco Polo Del Nero had checked out of the Baur au Lauc hotel and fled the country. The president of Brazil's CBF, also a FIFA ExCo member, had not risked waiting for congress for fear of arrest.

Elected...Blatter's reign this time was extremely short

Back home he would be safe as Brazil's constitution prohibits the extradition of its citizens. This was the key reason why, it also emerged, Teixeira had ended his self-exile in Miami and also flown home to the armed-guard security of a luxury new apartment in Rio de Janeiro.

"I'm asking you to leave FIFA, to step down. We are giving out a terrible image. We can't continue this way"

What Michel Platini says he told Blatter

Congress thus began with Blatter's opening remarks. He conceded that congress had been briefly put in question by Wednesday's "storm" and was even interrupted briefly by a pro-Palestinian protest before secretary-general Jerome Valcke ran through the agenda.

This included a warning from audit chairman Domenico Scala that FIFA needed a culture change plus a high-tension debate which resulted in another Palestinian-Israeli compromise.

So to the main event, the presidential election. Blatter had been expected to sweep to a clear first-round victory by securing at least 140 (two-thirds) of the 209 votes. Instead, he ended up with 133 against Prince Ali's 73 (with three votes spoiled). Prince Ali, his numbers expanded by the sense of crisis, had little diplomatic option but to withdraw.

Blatter, grinning widely, thus bounced back on stage in triumphalist style as if he had won by a landslide. Once more, utterly the wrong note had been struck. But he was, so it appeared, for good or ill, back in place for another four years.

Far away, however, events continued to conspire against his credibility.

Jack Warner was arrested in Port of Spain – and then taken suddenly ill – and bailed to answer his extradition warrant. In Paraguay, Leoz was arrested in hospital, where he too claimed to be unwell and suffering from the recurrence of a heart condition.

The next morning, after an ExCo meeting which did little more than confirm the status quo for the World Cup slots in 2018 and 2022, Blatter promised the media he would "take our boat back into calmer waters".

But calmer waters were an illusion. Valcke came under scrutiny for his role in the channelling of South African money to Warner; then FAI CEO John Delaney raised an Irish storm with confirmation that FIFA

Voting...staff empty the presidential ballot boxes

Defiant...Warner is still protesting his innocence

"bought off' a legal protest over the notorious Thierry Henry handball in the 2010 World Cup qualifiers that cost the Republic of Ireland a place at the finals.

Even as these tempests raged so no one gave any credence to Blatter's suggestion at Congress and after the ExCo that this would be his last term of office...until the following Tuesday when FIFA convened a press conference at such speed that only a handful of reporters were present to see and hear the 79-year-old announce his impending departure.

Among all the twists and turns of what were 10 remarkable days – even by FIFA's turbulent standards – this was the most astonishing of all.

- Did Platini's words finally come home to him?
- Did the concerns of his daughter and closest adviser Corinne suddenly ring true?
- Did the prospect of more US Justice revelations intimidate him?
- Did an imperative to end the risks of worldwide travel, to foreign jurisdictions, weigh him down?

Blatter's announced departure answered one question while raising even more...and opening the way to another congress which, like its title, will be extraordinary indeed. **WS**

Mark GLEESON
SOUTH AFRICA

Spotlight on 2010 'bribe'

It did not take long after the swoop by Swiss police at Zurich's Baur au Lac hotel for the gloss to start peeling off South Africa's 2010 World Cup.

In the hours after FIFA officials were taken, the US justice department in New York released the 164-page indictment of the 14 they sought to prosecute for racketeering, wire fraud and money-laundering conspiracies. And midway through the document were the most salacious details around South Africa's 2010 bid strategy, including details of a Paris hotel-room exchange of dollar bills to buy votes and the government's alleged agreement of a $10million bribe for the votes of the three CONCACAF members on the FIFA executive committee at the time.

Tainted...South Africa's hosting of the 2010 World Cup

The document implicates deeply both the South African bid and the government – and it has come as no surprise that they jumped onto the defensive with an initial denial, and then a disingenuous explanation, leaving more questions than answers.

The South African part of the indictment is based on evidence given by former CONCACAF general-secretary and FIFA ExCo member Chuck Blazer and the sons of one of his long-time accomplice Jack Warner, the long-serving CONCACAF president. It details a sinister handover of cash to Warner's son and also makes clear the $10m from South Africa was to pay for the votes of Warner, Blazer and CONCACAF's third member on the FIFA ExCo at the time, Isaac Sasso Sasso from Costa Rica.

The incredulity around the enormous payment is heightened by the fact the money was eventually paid over directly to Warner, not by South Africa's government, as originally promised, but directly from FIFA in Zurich. Ostensibly they took it out of $100m they were giving South Africa to organise the 2010 finals.

South Africa's tenuous defence is that the money was intended for a legacy programme for the African Diaspora in the Caribbean. As part of its denial, the government found an old sound bite of former South African president Thabo Mbeki explaining to a CNN interviewer the idea behind the project.

Top...Mbeki (left) and Jordaan

However, there is no record of this legacy programme, ostensibly run by the Warner-controlled Caribbean Football Union, and it seems inconceivable that South Africa sought no oversight or accounting of what their money was being used for.

"We gave the money unconditionally. Jack Warner was the leader of CONCACAF and the Caribbean Football Union and a man of good standing," said a straight-faced South African sports ministry's director general, Alec Moemi.

There are few in the country who swallow the story, except perhaps for Mbeki, who was possibly duped by his own people into believing the money would actually be used for some good.

But why would South Africa have felt the need for a development programme in the Caribbean when it had initiated no similar projects closer to home, particularly not in the African countries where there were other FIFA voters, such as neighbouring Botswana?

And why was there no publicity at the time when it would be expected such a considerable donation would be giant-sized fodder to be gobbled up by any public relations machine?

When one reporter asked Moemi why a Google search failed to deliver a single line of the "African legacy programme" prior to the recent revelations, he said it was because reporters had not thought it not newsworthy at the time.

Certainly the recipients believed the money to be a bribe and the "development programme" just a front. Blazer was promised $1m of the $10m, but eventually only got $750,000 and was plainly stitched up by Warner.

The American indictment fingers two South African bid officials – one who handed over the cash in the Paris hotel room – and it is the revelation of these identities when the court case in the US unfolds that is eagerly anticipated in South Africa.

Danny Jordaan, who ran the bid campaign almost single-handedly and is now the FA president, has gone to ground since the indictment's release, refusing any comment.

His image as the man who delivered the World Cup is severely dented, even if he has yet to be accused of any wrong doing. And much of the positive publicity that the country got post the hosting of the World Cup now lies in tatters. **WS**

"This is blasphemy. It's a state conspiracy. People are always trying to knock Blatter"

Guinea-Bissau FA Chief Nascimento Lopes remains a fan of the FIFA president

Who's who in FIFA's biggest scandal

ARRESTED IN ZURICH

Charged with conspiring to solicit and receive "well over $150m in bribes and kickbacks" since 1991.

Jeffrey Webb *(Cayman Islands)*
Head of CONCACAF and FIFA vice-president.

Eugenio Figueredo *(Uruguay)*
Former Uruguay FA boss and outgoing FIFA vice-president.

Eduardo Li *(Costa Rica)*
Incoming FIFA ExCo member.

Jose Maria Marin *(Brazil)*
Former federation president.

Julio Rocha *(Nicaragua)*
President of the Nicaragua FA.

Costas Takkas *(Cayman Islands)*
Webb's aide and former general secretary of the Cayman Islands FA.

Rafael Esquivel *(Venezuela)*
On FIFA's disciplinary committee and head of Venezuelan federation.

WANTED BY THE FBI

Sought in connection with "racketeering, wire fraud and money laundering".

Jack Warner *(Trinidad & Tobago)*
Former CONCACAF president and FIFA vice-president.

Nicolas Leoz *(Paraguay)*
Former president of the Paraguayan and South American federation and former FIFA ExCo member.

Alejandro Burzaco *(Argentina)*
Sports marketing executive. Was staying at the Baur au Lac hotel on the morning of the FBI arrests but was not arrested.

Aaron Davidson *(USA)*
President of the North American Soccer League and Traffic Sports USA which owns Carolina RailHawks.

Hugo Jinkis *(Argentina)*
CEO of Full Play Group, football broadcasting rights company.

Mariano Jinkis *(Argentina)*
Son of Hugo.

Jose Margulies (Brazil)
Alleged to be an "intermediary" who paid bribes to officials on behalf of sports marketing companies.

FBI & INFORMANTS

Loretta Lynch *(USA)*
American Attorney General who has spearheaded the investigation into FIFA corruption.

Jose Hawilla *(Brazil)*
Former head of Traffic who has entered into a deal with the FBI and agreed to forfeit fees of $150m.

Daryl Warner *(Trinidad & Tobago)*
Eldest son of Jack Warner. Fled to Miami in 2011 and now reportedly an FBI informant.

Daryan Warner *(Trinidad & Tobago)*
Younger son of Jack Warner. Reportedly turned FBI informant.

Chuck Blazer (USA)
Former CONCACAF general-secretary and FIFA ExCo member. Turned FBI informant when confronted by US tax officials over his undeclared revenue from commercial deals.

CHARGED IN BRAZIL

Ricardo Teixeira *(Brazil)*
Former Brazl FA boss and FIFA ExCo member. Charged by the Brazilian authorities with fraud and money laundering. Recently fled Miami.

ZURICH

Sepp Blatter *(Switzerland)*
FIFA president who initially vowed to carry on after winning a fifth term but then dramatically announced a U-turn four days later.

Jerome Valke *(France)*
FIFA general-secretary and closely linked to the $10m payment to CONCACAF from the South African FA.

Walter De Gregorio *(Switzerland)*
Quit as FIFA's communications chief.

Domenico Scala *(Switzerland)*
Head of FIFA's audit and compliance unit. A key figure in the staging of extraordinary congress to elect a new president.

"In these circumstances, FIFA cannot evade the obligation to hold a new vote under its new rules on the allocation of major events including the World Cup"

A Council of Europe report calls for a re-vote of the 2022 World Cup decision

FIFA EXCO IN 2010
The 22 men who took the decision, in 2010, to award the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2022 finals to Qatar

Sepp Blatter
FIFA president since 1998.

Issa Hayatou
African Confederation president. Named as recipient of bribes from former FIFA marketing company ISL. Still on the ExCo.

Ricardo Teixeira
Former head of Brazilian FA, ex son-in-law of Joao Havelange. Banned from FIFA in wake of ISL corruption scandal.

Jack Warner
Controversial former president of CONCACAF. Resigned from all FIFA positions in June 2011 following an investigation into allegations of corruption.

Mohamed Bin Hammam
Qatari who is the former president of the Asian Confederation. He was banned for life from all football activities by a FIFA ethics committee in July 2011 following attempts to bribe members of the Caribbean Football Union with envelopes containing $40,000.

Chung Mong-joon
Korean, wealthy scion of the Hyundai family, but voted off the ExCo in 2011.

Angel-Maria Villar
Spanish FA president, former goalkeeper. Key figure in alleged collusion between Spain-Portugal's 2018 bid and Qatar. Still on the ExCo.

Michel Platini
UEFA president. Voted for Qatar 2022 bid.

Geoffrey Thompson
Former chairman of the Football Association. Stepped down after leading England's failed 2018 bid.

Michel D'Hooghe
Belgian head of FIFA's medical committee, one of the biggest critics of Qatar 2022 decision. Still on the ExCo.

Chuck Blazer
Suspended by FIFA following allegations of fraud during his time at CONCACAF. No longer on the ExCo.

Worawi Makudi
Thai FA president who was accused by Lord Triesman (under UK parliamentary privilege) of demanding money for the TV rights to a friendly between England and Thailand. Stepped down from the ExCo in May 2015.

Nicolas Leoz
Paraguayan, former president on the South American confederation. Resigned from FIFA in April 2013, citing health reasons, weeks after he was accused of taking bribes from ISL. Accused by Lord Triesman of requesting a UK knighthood in return for supporting England's World Cup bid.

Marios Lefkaritis
Cypriot FA boss whose family has been accused of benefitting from a multimillion-pound property deal with the Qatari authorities shortly after the 2018/2022 votes. Still on the ExCo.

Jacques Anouma
Former head of the Ivory Coast FA who was accused by a British parliamentary committee of taking bribes from Qatar's 2022 campaign. Stepped down from the ExCo, May 2015.

Waiting...the ExCo wait for the 2018 and 2022 World Cup hosts to be announced

ALSO...

Reynald Temarii and **Amos Adamu** did not take part in the 2018/2022 vote because they had been banned from the ExCo (for one and three years respectively) after being caught on camera by *The Sunday Times* asking for cash in return for their 2018/2022 votes.

Hany Abo Rida
Egyptian ally of Bin Hammam who accompanied the Qatari on his fateful trip to the Caribbean Football Union (CFU). Stepped down from the ExCo, May 2015.

Julio Grondona
Veteran Argentinian FA president, who died last year aged 84. Blatter ally who voted for Qatar.

Vitaly Mutko
Russia FA boss who led his country's successful bid to host the 2018 World Cup. Still on the ExCo.

Senes Erzik
Turkish vice-president of UEFA. Stepped down from the ExCo in May 2015.

Junji Ogura
Japan FA boss who headed his country's 2022 World Cup bid. Has since stepped down from ExCo.

Franz Beckenbauer
Former Germany World Cup winner who backed Australia in the 2022 vote but has since stepped down from the ExCo.

Rafael Salguero
Guatemalan lawyer, former head of his country's FA. Stepped down from the ExCo in May 2015.

"I do not feel that I have a mandate from the entire world of football: the fans, the players, the clubs, the people who live, breathe and love football as much as we all do at FIFA"

Blatter's dramatic "resignation" speech

Who's next?

The contenders to succeed Blatter as FIFA president

MICHEL PLATINI
UEFA's 59-year-old president always insisted he "would never run against Blatter" and he was as good as his word despite the contradiction of persistent criticism of his old mentor for breaking his promise to stand down this year.

This time around the Frenchman may believe he has no alternative but to throw his hat into the ring. He would undertake the presidency in a very different manner to Blatter's 24/7 approach but might struggle to obtain enough votes in Africa and Asia, whose FAs are suspicious of UEFA power play – particularly after the toppling of Blatter.

SHEIKH AHMAD AL FAHAD AL SABAH
The Kuwaiti is a formidable powerbroker in the Olympic family but was comparatively unknown in football politics until this year, when AFC president Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa manipulated the confederation's FIFA slot so Sheikh Ahmad could walk into the ExCo.

He had been thought to be targeting the FIFA top job in 2019 but may now feel he must challenge earlier than expected.

Sheikh Ahmad, one-time head of oil cartel OPEC, heads the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and revenue-distributing Olympic Solidarity.

SHEIKH SALMAN BIN EBRAHIM AL KHALIFA
The 49-year-old Asian confederation president headed the task force which decided on switching the Qatar World Cup to the winter and is a dedicated defender of Qatar's World Cup hosting.

He gained overwhelming support in his election as AFC president in 2013, albeit thanks to the behind-the-scenes support of Sheikh Ahmad. He beat Yousuf Al Serkal of the United Arab Emirates and Thailand's Worawi Makudi to replace Mohamed Bin Hammam.

While he or Sheikh Ahmad seem certain to run, they will not both stand.

PRINCE ALI BIN AL HUSSEIN
The 39-year-old Jordanian prince took a praiseworthy 73 votes in his defeat by Sepp Blatter in Zurich and must consider whether this is a platform to try again. The problem for Prince Ali is that he may not have full-hearted support from within his own Asian confederation.

CHUNG MONG-JOON
The billionaire scion of the Hyundai empire spent 11 years as Asia's FIFA vice-president and, most notably, led South Korea's aggressive late run to share joint World Cup hosting rights with Japan in 2002. The 63-year-old has been missing from among the game's elite since 2011.

"The problem for Prince Ali is that he may not have full-hearted support from within his own Asian confederation"

ALSO...MICHAEL VAN PRAAG and **LUIS FIGO**, having fallen out of the 2015 race even before the ballot, would lack credibility to try again... **JEROME CHAMPAGNE**, with by far the most credible programme last time, may feel encouraged that the ground has changed sufficiently to run again even though he lacked sufficient nominations...secretary-general **JEROME VALCKE** has been linked with the possible Blatter succession for the sake of "continuity" – the reason Blatter was supported by predecessor Joao Havelange...Chilean **HAROLD MAYNE-NICHOLLS**, head of the 2018-2022 technical assessment team, considered running this year then decided against. He might be a compromise candidate in case of a stalemate between Africa/Asia and Europe/North-America.

AND NOT FORGETTING...
Not to be totally ruled out - a late African/Asian move to persuade Blatter to stay on.

New dawn...FIFA has the chance to restore some credibility

"I have no reason not to stay secretary-general because of what happened in the past few days because I have no responsibility and I've done nothing wrong"

Jerome Valcke toughs it out

The next steps...

DECEMBER ELECTION DATE

The FIFA executive committee will meet in Zurich on July 20 to set a date for the extraordinary Congress which will elect a new president. December 16 appears to be the most favoured date.

Audit and compliance chairman Domenico Scala will issue new electoral regulations, setting a five-nominations declaration deadline for candidates, possibly mid-October.

In the meantime FIFA's political work has been halted, as has the 2026 World Cup bid process.

CENTRE STAGE FOR SCALA

When Sepp Blatter made his dramatic resignation announcement he was accompanied not by secretary-general Jerome Valcke or communications director Walter De Gregorio but by audit and compliance chairman Scala.

The 54-year-old Swiss businessman is probably the one man in and around FIFA who could be counted as truly independent. He was brought in on the recommendation of governance guru Mark Pieth in May 2012 and can sit in on any committee, to delve into whatever document he likes and check up on the work of whoever catches his attention.

Direct involvement by Scala in the next transitional months can be crucial. As he has indicated all along, he believes FIFA cannot rebuild without a radical change of governing structure, term and age limits, and meaningful transparency.

Scala has ordered much tighter controls on development projects and used his power to halt projects that are throwing up accounting concerns.

He worked with now-departed ethics chief Michael Garcia to draw up this year's first FIFA electoral regulations.

WORLD CUP INVESTIGATIONS

The Swiss attorney-general's office is continuing its investigations into the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. It has seen the contents of the Garcia Report and has seized computer records from FIFA House. The Swiss authorities were also reported to be looking at the money paid for the Argentina v Brazil friendly in Qatar, three weeks before the ExCo vote in 2010. The match fee was said to be twice the regular amount charged by Brazil for exhibition games.

In the most recent revelation, *The Sunday Times* revealed evidence of payments made by Qatari construction companies into a Monaco bank account of former ExCo member Ricardo Teixeira. A Brazilian indictment against Teixeira revealed the account contained $30m.

THE FIGHT TO EXTRADITE

Paraguay's former CONMEBOL president Nicolas Leoz was placed under house arrest, pending an attempt to extradite him to the USA. At 86, and in frail health, that may not be an easy request to grant. In the 1990s, he declared CONMEBOL headquarters, on the outskirts of Paraguay's capital Asuncion, to have diplomatic immunity, like an embassy.

However, Paraguay's congress has already moved to strip the CONMEBOL building of its diplomatic status.

Meanwhile, South American prosecutors have made a joint request to the US authorities for access to information on criminal activities unearthed by the FBI, so that local investigations can be furthered.

FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS IN BRAZIL

Up until last month the headquarters of the CBF was named after Jose Maria Marin, the organisation's former president.

> Paraguay's congress has already moved to strip the CONMEBOL building of its diplomatic status

The letters were hurriedly removed from the front of the building after Marin was one of those arrested in Switzerland as part of the FBI investigation.

The Federal Police are looking into the affairs of the CBF, who will also fall under the scrutiny of a commission of inquiry in Brazil's congress, which player turned rebel politician Romario has been pushing for in recent months. Marin's successor, Marco Polo del Nero, did not even stay in Switzerland for the FIFA presidential election, instead scurrying back to Brazil to take charge of the CBF's defence.

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

A man and an organisation with no sense of shame

It was Mao Tse-tung, of unhallowed memory, who did once memorably say: "Power comes out of the barrel of a gun." To which one might add that even smoking guns, however incriminating and however plainly revealed, are seldom enough in themselves to bring retribution.

By all this I mean that not until the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and its American allies, suddenly and sensationally made a host of arrests and published specific charges of corruption by members of FIFA did there seem any real prospect of the Augean Stables at last being cleared.

My own newspaper, *The Sunday Times,* in the course of a formidable investigation of millions of emails, laid bare the appalling scale and shocking detail of FIFA's World Cup machinations. But nothing happened. Indeed the ineffable Sepp Blatter, addressing a representative audience, actually had the gall to brush the investigation aside with an idiotic charge of racism. This is a man and an organisation with no sense of shame.

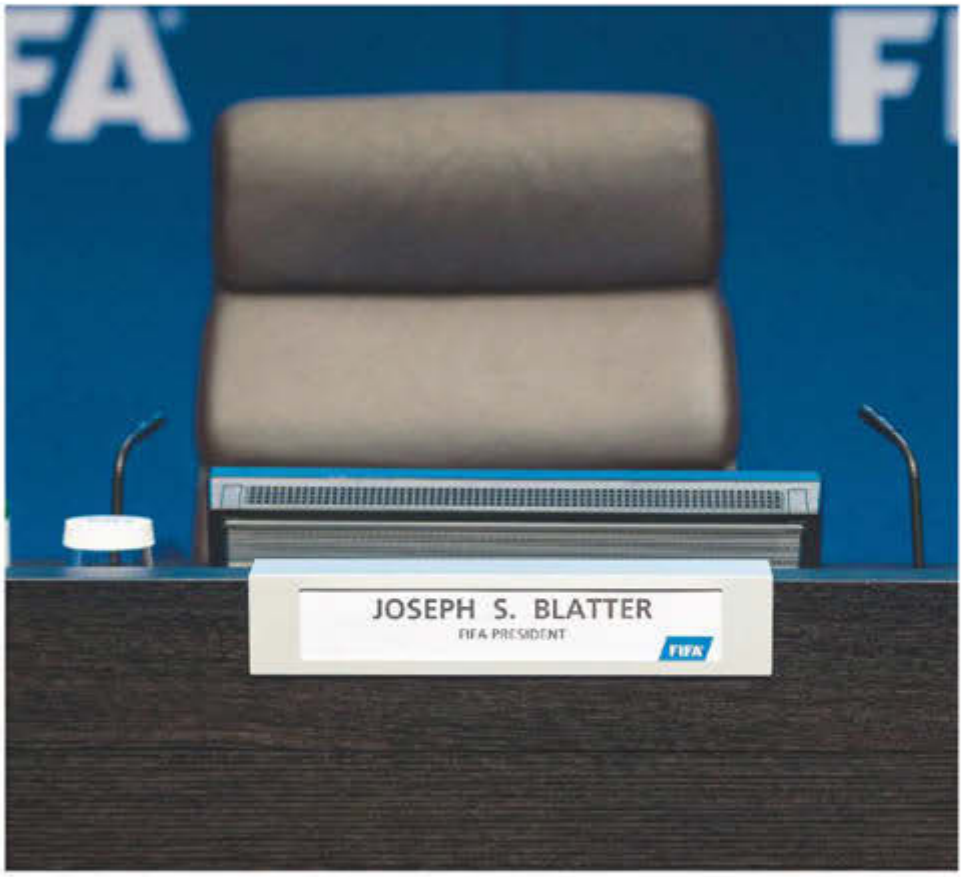
Well, he's out of office now, thank the Lord, though still trying at the time of writing to cling to it for many months. For all *The Sunday Times'* shocking revelations, he had been voted back into power and presidency by a landslide. And even after his announced resignation, he received a 10-minute ovation from the minions he employed. Shades of the vacuous dictum in Italian Fascist times that "Mussolini is always right". Mass brainwashing would seem to be in order.

All sorts of repellent creatures are crawling out from under stones. We learn that South Africa paid a $10million bribe to Jack Warner of CONCACAF which, for obscure, bewildering reasons, was even mediated through FIFA, allegedly via Blatter's number two, Jerome Valcke (denied, of course). The money was supposedly, as oddly maintained by the South Africans, to help the development of soccer in the Caribbean area. What noble generosity. Valcke claims to have had nothing to do with the payment, even though an email sent by him in December 2007 states: "I have never received confirmation but, more important, I would like to know when the transfer can be done." This, he told the South African minister, was "based on a discussion between FIFA and the South African government and also between our President and [South African] President M'Beki". A FIFA lady had insisted that everything was wholly in order.

But thereby hangs an all too significant tale. A few years ago, Valcke, then a middling executive, and the gross Chuck Blazer, who has now helpfully turned state's evidence, were sent by FIFA to represent them in a New York court where their brief was to overturn the deal for World Cup representation enjoyed by MasterCard in favour of Visa. The female judge virtually chased them out of court, accusing them of lying.

Back in Zurich, Valcke was briefly demoted, but in no time at all, the smoke cleared and he was installed as Blatter's second in command.

Please note, that not a single peep of protest was heard from any member country of the world body.



Hot seat...Blatter is determined to cling on to his post until a successor is elected

"Even after Blatter's announced resignation, he received a 10-minute ovation from the minions he employed"

Crooked...Havelange's embezzlement funded his many costly global trips

Havelange, FIFA's biggest crook

Somewhere in Brazil, now well into his 90s, Joao Havelange, the monster and manipulator who was ultimately behind it all, sits smugly and snugly on his untold millions. Yes, we know that quite recently he and the abominable Ricardo Teixeira, now reportedly gone to ground while accused of embezzling $100million, found themselves eased out of their roles – Havelange's merely being that of honorary FIFA president – as a result of the ISL swindle and the money they had pocketed to implement it.

Whatever we may think of Blatter, not least the suspicious way he suddenly and surprisingly pipped Sweden's Johansson for the presidency in 1998, there is no doubt that it was Havelange who corrupted FIFA. The Americans have been talking about going back 24 years in their investigation but, ideally, inquiries should go back to 1974, that fateful day when Havelange bought his way past Stanley Rous to the presidency.

It was a shocking and direly significant fact that he retained it until 1998. How could it be that Havelange was re-elected every four years almost automatically? In his remarkable, supremely well-researched book *How They Stole The Game,* David Yallop gives us superabundant detail of how Havelange bought the (largely African) votes he needed for the presidential election in Frankfurt in 1974.

Money was embezzled, as his former business partner Dr Lobo states, partly from the Brazilian Football Confederation of which Havelange was president, and partly from rich Portuguese politicians fleeing their own country when its neo-fascist regime had been overturned.

With these funds, Havelange was able to run a colossally expensive international campaign which took him round and round the world. In 1986, *Playboy* magazine interviewed Havelange and asked: "Visiting eighty-six countries costs a lot. Who paid for the trip?" I did, replied Havelange who, usually so meticulous about money, added he had no idea of how much he had spent.

So Rous was duly outvoted and Havelange's putrescent 24-year reign began. In the meanwhile, he assiduously promoted the career of his then son-in-law Teixeira, who was struggling financially when Havelange took him up and got him into the television business.

Yallop gives infinite excruciating chapter and verse on Teixeira's greed and devious manipulation, but all these long years it was he whom the Brazilians appointed to lead their World Cup committee.

Irish deal makes no sense at all

Much furore over the revelation that the FA of Ireland accepted a €5million payment from FIFA as compensation for the handball goal of Thierry Henry in the World Cup 2010 play-off in Paris.

Jose Mourinho is among those who have poured scorn on it. For my part, I am somewhat bewildered. Beyond doubt the Irish were shamefully cheated, but no more so, surely, than England in Mexico City in 1986 when Diego Maradona scored against them with the so-called "Hand of God". Wretched refereeing in both cases. In that of Maradona, a trio of inexperienced African officials had been absurdly appointed.

As for the Henry affair, there is no evidence to suggest or confirm that the referee and his linesman were culpable other than in simple error. That €5m was essentially blood money. But given that no malfeasance had been proved, why pay it at all?

Should the FAI and its now embroiled supremo, John Delaney, have accepted it? Should FIFA have ever paid it?

In doing so there was an implicit suggestion of culpability. A sombre affair. A tacit admission of guilt?

Controversy...the Republic of Ireland appeal in vain as Henry (left) handles in the build-up to France's goal in the 2010 World Cup qualifying play-off

Read Brian Glanville's exclusive online column at worldsoccer.com

Oil pressure...then-French president Sarkozy (left) and Platini

Please, no Platini

Whoever succeeds Blatter, let it not by any stretch of the imagination be Michel Platini.

He has eternally blotted his copybook as president of UEFA by betraying his European trust in voting for Qatar as a summer, 50 degrees centigrade, tournament – then compounding it by supporting its transfer to the European winter, thus utterly subverting the competitions of the countries he supposedly represents.

The word is, however, he wasn't bought; he was leaned on by then French president Nicolas Sarkozy, intent on maintaining oil supplied from Qatar. In which case, the honourable thing for Platini to have done was either to refuse or to resign.

And what of Franz Beckenbauer, who not only supported Qatar for 2022 but, according to a witness quoted in *The Sunday Times* investigation, was paid vast sums to endorse the 2018 Russian bid?

He has yet to deny it or take libel action.

Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

Old guard remain wary of the little upstarts

Shock...unfashionale Frosinone celebrate defying their critics and clinching promotion to Serie A

The major leagues of Europe have never seen anything like it, with the minnows of Carpi, Frosinone, Ingolstadt and Bournemouth joining their respective top flights next season.

For many football lovers, this is a wonderful and heart-warming story amid the scandals of FIFA and the predictable domination of silverware by the game's giants.

Carpi have won four promotions in five seasons to reach Serie A with an average home attendance of 2,991. Frosinone's similar ascent has come with gates of 5,087. Ingolstadt were only created in 2004, when they began playing in the fourth tier of the Bavarian regional league, and Bournemouth were saved from extinction as recently as 2008 by money collected in plastic buckets by their supporters.

Each of these triumphs is a proper sporting fairy tale – and yet still the romance is lost on some sad souls.

Listen to Claudio Lotito, the owner of Lazio, who slammed the prospect of "Cinderella clubs" in Serie A because they would be detrimental to the amount of TV income the league could generate. Speaking before the promotions were sealed, Lotito said: "If Carpi come up, if teams come up who are not worth a cent, then in two or three years we won't have a penny.

"I've done well in selling TV rights, we have brought in €1.2billion thanks to my skill. If in three years we have teams such as Frosinone, who would buy those rights? They don't even know where Frosinone is?"

Well, Frosinone is a small and delightful town full of decent people in the Lazio region south of Rome. Carpi is in the province of Modena. Both have achieved success on modest budgets, using young Italian players and thanks to the work of fine coaches in Fabrizio Castori at Carpi and Roberto Stellone with Frosinone.

There is virtue in their glory even if they don't smell of money. But I suppose the carping is to be expected from the old powers of the game as they take fright so easily.

It's just the same in Germany – although the rationale there is in reverse. The problem with Ingolstadt is they have too much wealth.

Ingolstadt is where the novel *Frankenstein* was set, and some see a monster in their rise and rise, with the club, who play at the 15,000-capacity Audi Sportpark, derisively known by critics as "FC Audi".

Former Germany defender Christoph Metzelder called the promotion "a slap in the face for traditional clubs", while the chairman of Eintracht Frankfurt, Heribert Bruchhagen, was equally damning – as well as fearful about the role of corporate cash.

"Pretty well everyone is surprised that a club like Ingolstadt can make a run at the Bundesliga and may, depending on Audi's commitment, become a major player in the long term," claimed Bruchhagen.

"It's another indication that the traditional clubs of the Bundesliga feel under pressure from corporate-sponsored entities masquerading as factory clubs."

No mention there of the club's brilliant coach, Ralph Hasenhuttl, who has created a superb team where before there was mediocrity despite Audi's involvement.

In England, Bournemouth have suffered similar brickbats because their financial status has been secured by the riches of a Russian owner, Maxim Demin, who made his fortune in the petro-chemical industry. However, the club's wage bill was among the lower end of the 24-team Championship last season, and their excellence on the field – from a squad of modest reputation – has been forged by impressive young boss Eddie Howe, who was named Manager of the Year by his peers in England, ahead even of Jose Mourinho.

> Carping is to be expected from the old powers of the game as they take fright so easily

Too little money. Too much wealth.

The self-serving accusations fly from the old guard of European football when they should be acknowledging the joy of sport to confound and to delight.

Who knows if Carpi, Frosinone, Ingolstadt and Bournemouth will prove to be more than one-season wonders?

But one thing is for certain: they should definitely not be mocked or sneered at for their achievements. WS

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Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Time for referees to signal their intentions

There was a moment towards the end of the Premier League season in England, just one minute into the Chelsea-Liverpool game, when total confusion reigned. After Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas had committed a nasty looking foul on Raheem Sterling, the referee, Andre Marriner, took his red card out and appeared to show it to John Obi Mikel. Then, mysteriously, the red card disappeared and Fabregas escaped with just a yellow.

The BBC's Alan Green was justifiably baffled, commenting: "I'm sorry. The referee is meant, through his signals, to tell people in a stadium precisely what has happened."

If only, Alan. If only. The fact is, referees are under no obligation to signal anything.

The rule book lists 18 "powers and duties" for the referee – and giving signals to define decisions is not one of them.

In the "Guidelines" section, there is a page headed simply "Referee Signals". That's all; no mention of whether these signals have to be used or not. The page has just five drawings; two of which are identical: how to give a yellow card and how to give a red card. So then, just four signals: for a direct free-kick, an indirect free-kick, for playing advantage and how to brandish a card – which is an obvious action that barely qualifies as a signal anyway.

The history of signals shows a long hostility to the whole idea; from Stanley Rous' famous "I don't want my referees looking like windmills" to statements from FIFA. This one from 1970 is typical of the official attitude: "It is not the duty of the referee, nor is it a useful function, to explain his decisions to the players or spectators. Any attempt to do so can only lead to confusion, uncertainty and delay."

Extraordinary. But this official attitude – that it is alright to keep not only the fans, but the players as well, in the dark – involves a huge misunderstanding on the part of the rule makers.

The idea of the signals is not to explain the referee's calls, it is to define them. For example, in order to give a clear and immediate indication that, say, "impeding the progress of an opponent" (what used to be called obstruction) has been called. That's all that is required. Explanations of why the call was made can follow after the game.

If you want to argue that the previous FIFA statement is 45-years old, and things are much better now, there is one crucial piece of evidence that contradicts that assumption – because it is clear that the "don't tell them anything" mentality still dominates referees' thinking. How is it that, after over 150 years of written soccer rules, there is still no official list of obligatory referee signals?

> Why would anyone object to referees identifying their calls?

How difficult would it be to draw up a set of signals to cover all the important calls?

My calculation is that this would involve somewhere between a dozen and 20 signals – hardly a daunting task.

Of course, the lead should be taken by the referees themselves, but that is not going to happen. However, action can be taken because this is not something that in any way changes or contravenes the existing rules and therefore does not impact on the playing of the game. The permission of FIFA is not required.

The people who should jump in to draw up the signals are the Americans.

American sports fans are used to clear signals in their sports. They get them in gridiron football, in basketball, in baseball. In gridiron stadiums and basketball arenas they also get PA announcements of the calls.

This is an opportunity for Major League Soccer to show the way. Let them draw up a provisional list. By all means involve representatives from other countries, should they show any interest, then let's see how things go after a full MLS season using the signals. The important things are simply to show, first, that a list of acceptable signals can be compiled, and second that the signals work in practice.

Unthinking tradition cannot serve as a solid basis for modern refereeing. In this age of announced transparency in the game, why would anyone object to referees identifying their calls?

This is not another attempt to permit technology to encroach on the referee's duties. Rather the opposite. Decisively delivered, authoritative signals would make it clear that the referee is in charge. WS

Confusion...Marriner

"I'm going in with my eyes wide open. I know I'm not going to be a front runner"

Ex-England centre-half Sol Campbell says he will run for mayor of London

Notebook

Highlights from some of our regular on-line contributions

Surplus...Kagawa

GERMANY

The removal vans should be zipping in and out of the Westfalenstadion now that Thomas Tuchel has arrived to begin the post-Klopp era at Borussia Dortmund.

In conjunction with general manager Michael Zorc, he already has brought in Bayer Leverkusen's Gonzalo Castro and young Munich 1860 schemer Julian Weigl, and would also love to recruit promising Mainz midfielder, Johannes Geis, Freiburg's Swiss keeper Roman Burki, Club Brugge and Belgium Under-21 striker Obbi Oulare, and Argentinian front-man Guido Carrillo from Estudiantes.

Among those thought to be surplus to requirements are the Polish right-back Lukasz Piszczek, the Japanese attacking midfielder Shinji Kagawa and German international centre-back Matthias Ginter.

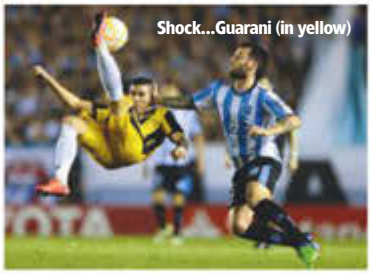
Nick Bidwell

BRAZIL

There was a historic moment for Guarani of Paraguay in the Libertadores Cup. With the veteran Julio Cesar Caceres once more superb at the heart of their back three, they kept another clean sheet – their fourth in a row – as they eliminated their second consecutive giant. After beating Corinthians of Brazil 3-0 on aggregate they held Racing of Argentina to a gripping goalless draw to go through 1-0.

Their semi-final opponents will be River Plate, who lost their first leg 1-0 at home, but produced the performance of the week to win 3-0 against Cruzeiro of Brazil, who won the last two domestic titles but consistently disappointed in the Libertadores.

Tim Vickery


Shock...Guarani (in yellow)

Dutch trio...(from left) Van Basten, Rijkaard and Gullit

ITALY

Former Italy and Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi may have talked himself into more trouble last weekend.

Not long ago, Sacchi was accused of racism when he complained about the number of "coloured" players he had seen participating in the prestigious Viareggio Youth tournament in February.

This time, Sacchi has touched a similar note when welcoming the recent rise and rise of Juventus.

He was reported to have said: "The sun is shining again on Italian football thanks to Juventus and let's hope that this sun shines not just on Italian football but also on the other Italy.

"The last time we won a Champions League, we did it with an Inter side in which there wasn't a single Italian.

"In my opinion, that was a complete disgrace. Problem is that in Italy, in order to win, people are willing to sell their souls to the devil".

Needless to say, folks up at Appiano Gentile were not much amused with one of the few Italians in that Inter side, namely Marco Materazzi, commenting: "Now I ask you, would Sacchi's great AC Milan team have won quite so much without those three Dutchmen (Van Basten, Gullit and Rijkaard)?"

Paddy Agnew

SPAIN

Carlo Ancelotti puffed his way through Real Madrid's penultimate game of the season. Suspended, he sat in a private box, smoking on a cigarette. He will still be suspended for the final match against Getafe, meaning that he has probably sat on the Madrid bench for the last time.

The only thing that can keep him in a job now is if Madrid fail to find a man who can replace him – not exactly a solid foundation for another year together.

Sid Lowe

Weekly notes from Brazil, Spain, Germany and Italy at **worldsoccer.com**

eye witness

Joel Richards reports from Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA

Superclasico trilogy ends in disgrace

Fan attack sees Boca expelled from the Libertadores Cup

When the calendars and results aligned to schedule three *Superclasicos* in the space of 11 days in May, many wondered quite how Argentina would cope with such an intense timetable. The resounding answer was broadcast around the world for over an hour when the third game between River Plate and Boca Juniors was suspended. For a country that is well accustomed to violence in football, the scandalous scenes at the Libertadores Cup clash represented an absolute nadir.

Television footage clearly showed the moment of the attack on the River players and those responsible. Just before the start of the second half, Adrian Napolitano, a supporter known as "The Baker", sprayed home-made mace (an irritant similar to tear gas) at the tunnel shielding the away side as the Boca team ran out onto the pitch at the Bombonera.

The footage, however, was only released after CONMEBOL had ruled on what action to take – a move that fanned numerous conspiracy theories as the South American governing body's decision was widely viewed as lenient.

Although Boca forfeited the round-of-16 tie and were expelled from this year's Libertadores, they received no ▸

Disgraceful...riot police are forced to shield River coach Marcelo Gallardo

Affected...River's Sebastian Driussi (left) and Leo Ponzio suffer after being sprayed by a Boca fan

EOS

future ban from the tournament.

The *Superclasico* trilogy had promised much. The clubs were joint top of the league, with Boca unbeaten in 17 games after investing heavily in players for this season. And although River had been poor in the Libertadores group stage, they still had the backbone of the side that won the league and Sudamericana Cup last year.

In the first meeting, in the league and at the Bombonera, Boca scored twice late on in a turgid affair to win 2-0.

In the first leg of the Libertadores game, River had Colombian striker Teo Gutierrez sent off but were comfortable 1-0 winners. Then, in the highly charged return leg that would decide who progressed to the quarter-finals of the Libertadores, River contained Boca for 45 minutes and looked set to win the tie. However, coming out for the second half, several River players were sprayed.

Midfielders Leo Ponzio and Matias Kranevitter, and defenders Leonel Vangioni and Ramiro Funes Mori were the worst affected and had to be taken to hospital later that evening. Dario Herrera, the inexperienced referee surprisingly handed a *Superclasico* for his debut game in the Libertadores, delayed restarting the match. With Boca all set and ready to play, the CONMEBOL official made several phone calls, but for an hour, there was no decision.

With pepper spray having been smuggled into the ground, not to mention the drone that was flown above River's players taunting them about their 2011 relegation, serious questions have to be asked about security checks at games. It was clear that the game could not continue and it took San Lorenzo coach Edgardo Bauza to point out what seemed to have been lost in the madness when he commented: "The players could have been blinded."

While the behaviour of a few supporters who decided to plan and carry out the attack is ample material for study by psychologists and sociologists, there is a broader, cultural issue. When River's players finally left the pitch, bottles and other items rained down on them – not from the *barra brava*, but from club members in the more expensive seats. Boca's players, meanwhile, applauded the stand from where River's players had been sprayed before they left the pitch.

And these type of incidents are not limited to only one club. This was simply the latest, and arguably one of the most shocking, to have occurred.

In the aftermath of the game, Boca sued 15 members for over £4million in damages and arguments raged over what

"Football is slowly dying"
River Plate coach Marcelo Gallardo

Mocking...a drone flies overhead before the game

Volatile...Boca fans

Clash...River's Jonathan Maidana (left) and Pablo Perez of Boca

LIBERTADORES ROUND-UP

After being awarded a 3-0 win and passage to the quarter-finals of the Libertadores following the abandonment of the game against Boca, River Plate produced a stunning comeback in Brazil to reach the last four.

Trailing 1-0 to Cruzeiro from the game in Buenos Aires, River cruised to a 3-0 victory with goals from Carlos Sanchez, Jonathan Maidana and Teofilo Gutierrez.

River now face Guarani of Paraguay, who beat Argentinian champions Racing Club 1-0 on aggregate. Behind after the away leg, Racing failed to break down the visitors in the return and were not helped by a red card for goalkeeper Sebastian Saja in the

Last four...River celebrate victory over Cruzeiro

second leg – even if replacement Nelson Ibanez did save Julian Benitez's penalty.

The other semi-final sees Internacional of Brazil take on Tigres, who are only the fourth Mexican team to get this far, after Cruz Azul, America and Guadalajara.

Having lost 1-0 in Ecuador, Tigres took just five minutes to level against Emelec in the return, before defender Jose Rivas settled matters 11 minutes from time.

Internacional also overcame a 1-0 first-leg loss to progress with a 2-0 home win over Santa Fe of Colombia. A second-minute header from defender Juan levelled the scores on aggregate before an own goal from Baldomero Perlaza settled matters.

● *Semi-finals to be played July14/15 and 21/22*

Raw...Herrera (right) with Boca coach Rodolfo Arruabarrena

had happened. For some, the attack was more than just a stupid, irresponsible prank and was viewed as part of a wider internal battle for control of the club's *barra brava*.

Boca president Daniel Angelici resigned as AFA vice-president, saying he "did not want to be part of a system that did not work". However, the AFA president, Luis Segura, felt obliged to point out that Angelici had made no such complaints about the institution in the previous years of his vice-presidency.

While Angelici did admit that the incident was an "international disgrace", Boca also maintained that the game should have been played to its conclusion and finished on the pitch. Several voices from within the club even suggested that River had tried to take advantage of the fact that four of their players were sprayed with mace.

With the attack clearly captured by television cameras for all to see, questions have been asked as to why the company involved in screening the game, Torneos y Competencias, did not release the footage until after the sanctions for Boca had been officially announced.

Interestingly, the company's CEO, Alejandro Burzaco was among those indicted by the US justice department in the shock FIFA arrests that followed a few weeks later. **WS**

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WALES

KIER RADNEDGE

2015 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

JUNE 6, OLYMPIASTADION, BERLIN
Juventus 1 (Morata 55)
Barcelona 3 (Rakitic 4, Suarez 67, Neymar 90+6)
HT: 1-0 Att: 40,442 Ref: Cakir (Tur)
Juventus: Buffon; Lichtsteiner, Barzagli, Bonucci, Evra (Coman 89); Marchisio, Pirlo, Pogba, Vidal (Pereyra 79); Tevez, Morata (Llorente 85)
Booked: Pogba, Vidal
Barcelona: Ter Stegen; Alves, Pique, Mascherano, Alba; Rakitic (Mathieu 90+1), Busquets, Iniesta (Xavi 78); Messi, Suarez (Pedro 90+6), Neymar
Booked: Suarez

Barcelona scale new heights

Xavi bows out as Catalans prove worthy champions in fifth European Cup triumph

The game in Spain stands head and shoulders above the rest of Europe in football's international club competitions in the second decade of the new century.

The national team won the 2010 World Cup, in between a 2008 and 2010 European Championship double, and the clubs have carried the flag forward. Barcelona (now twice) and Real Madrid have won half of the first six of the decade's Champions League Finals, while Atletico Madrid and Sevilla have carried off the Europa League twice each.

For all the Premier League's worldwide popularity, the glory game is being monopolised by Barcelona and Madrid, and on an individual level, by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo – even if only the Argentinian made it through to Berlin for the 2015 Champions League Final.

Above all, Barcelona secured their fifth European triumph in all by seeing off Juventus 3-1 in a Final which provided a welcome respite on the pitch to the 10 days off it dominated by not only FIFA chaos but alleged criminality in Zurich.

> "This is special...to lift the trophy and dedicate it to the people of Barcelona"
> Xavi gets his wish in his final game for Barca

Goals from Ivan Rakitic, Luis Suarez and Neymar wiped away Juve's hopes of marking the 30th anniversary of the Heysel disaster with a success against the odds. The Italians were briefly on terms through Alvaro Morata early in the second half but Barcelona's overwhelming class and creative brilliance crowned them worthy champions of Europe.

Their next target is not merely to attempt to match the six-title year of 2009 but to become the first club to win the Champions League, in its modern incarnation, two seasons in a row. They possess all the attributes, although they will defend the crown next season without Xavi, who emerged from the bench late in the game and carried off the cup before heading to Qatar's Al Sadd.

On top...Barca's Pique beats Tevez to the ball

Xavi and three of his team-mates – Gerard Pique, vice-captain Andres Iniesta and Messi – qualified to join an elite club registered previously by only eight players in the 59-year history of the European Cup: winning it four or more times. Previously only one player had managed that status in the Champions League era: Clarence Seedorf (uniquely with three different clubs in Ajax, Real Madrid and Milan).

The other multi-winners with four European Cups are Jose Hector Rial and Marquitos (with Real Madrid) and Phil Neal (Liverpool). Jose Maria Zarraga and the great Alfredo Di Stefano both won five, all in Madrid, as did Paolo Maldini with Milan. Out on his own is Madrid's flying winger Francesco Gento, with six European Cups.

Xavi, Iniesta and Messi were the only three survivors of the Barcelona team who beat Arsenal in Paris in 2006 although the Argentinian did not play in the Final because of injury and was not yet a major player in Barcelona. He was lined up, of course, along with Pique, Xavi and Iniesta against Manchester United, both in 2009 in Rome and two years later in London,

Airborne...Barcelona hoist coach Enrique

Not that Barcelona and first-season coach Luis Enrique approached Berlin in entirely carefree mood. Tax evasion cases hang over Messi and now Neymar in Brazil – in addition to the impending Spanish court case in which Barcelona and presidents past and present deny having misled the authorities over the Brazilian's 2013 transfer from Santos.

Both they and Juventus were pursuing trebles after winning their domestic Spanish and Italian leagues and cups, but the "Old Lady" was handicapped by a late injury to Italy centre-back Giorgio Chiellini; hence no close encounter of the toothy type with Suarez, recalling their World Cup meeting last summer. He was replaced by Andrea Barzagli.

Chiellini issued a battle-cry, urging his "great team-mates...to show the world the courage, strength and determination to achieve our dream".

Words, however fine, cannot always be translated into deeds but Juventus, with a summer's perspective, should realise they exceeded expectations in not only reaching the Final – eliminating holders Real Madrid in the semi-final – but in surviving two exhilarating bursts of Barcelona wizardry at the start of each half.

In the end resilience was not enough, but it never could be on a night when Messi, Suarez and Neymar were on top of their collaborative game, more for the team than individually. Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri acknowledged the fact, saying he regretted only the result, not the "extraordinary" performance of his team.

The MSN strike force had claimed 120 goals between them before the Final but it was the unnoticed Rakitic who put Barcelona ahead after four minutes. With

the exception of Suarez, the other nine outfield players contributed to the move.

They could have scored more but Juventus, having emerged from the initial hurricane at a cost of only one goal, began to find their own attacking feet in the second half. A neat backheel from Claudio Marchisio allowed Lichtsteiner to cross; Carlos Tevez's shot on the turn was saved by Marc-Andre Ter Stegen but Morata was on hand to fire home.

Suddenly Juve had their tails up, but it left them exposed at the back. In the 67th minute Barcelona broke again at speed. Rakitic fed Messi, who unleashed a low drive that Gigi Buffon could only push away, and Suarez followed up for his seventh goal in his last 10 games.

Neymar then deflected his header into the goal off his own outstretched arm, but he was not to be denied. In the last minute of stoppage time he finished off another breakaway and the scoreline reflected more realistically the gap between the teams.

Finale...Xavi leaves Barca with a fourth European Cup

KEY MOMENTS

GOAL!

4min In Barcelona's first attack, Rakitic slots home Iniesta's pass after a nine-man passing move. **Juventus 0 Barcelona 1**
8min Vidal shoots over from the edge of the area for Juventus.
9min Neymar shoots over for Barca.
13min Alves' shot is palmed away by Juve keeper Buffon.
24min Marchisio of Juve shoots wide.
39min Suarez shoots across goal and just wide of the far post.
40min Suarez's shot is pushed over by Buffon.
48min After a swift Barca counter-attack, Suarez's shot is blocked by Buffon at the near post.

GOAL!

55min A Marchisio backheel wrongfoots the Barca defence. Tevez's shot is parried by Ter Stegen into the path of Morata, who taps home. **Juventus 1 Barcelona 1**
63min Tevez shoots over from the edge of the area.
67min A Juve penalty claim is denied after Pogba is challenged in the area.

GOAL!

68min Messi leads a rapid Barcelona attack. His shot is pushed out by Buffon, but Suarez fires the rebound in. **Juventus 1 Barcelona 2**
71min Neymar heads Suarez's cross past Buffon but the ball is adjudged to have hit his arm on the way in.
81min Pique, played in by Rakitic after a corner, volleys over.
89min Marchisio's shot is pushed wide from the edge of the area.

GOAL!

90+6min Barca break, Neymar exchanges passes with Suarez and then fires a fierce shot under Buffon. **Juventus 1 Barcelona 3**

JONATHAN WILSON

Masters of the ball but not of their own destiny

The current Barcelona are more dangerous than Pep Guardiola's 2011 side but they are also more vulnerable

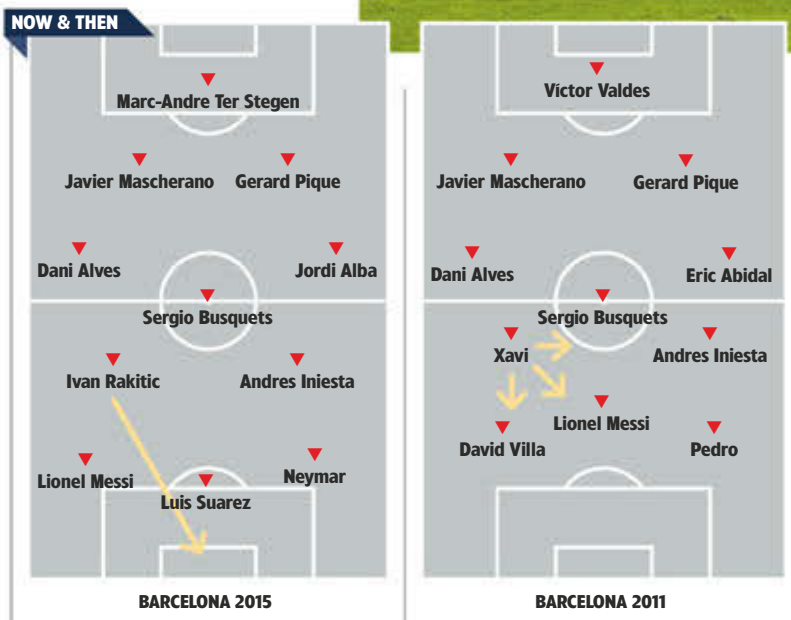
How do you deal with a front three of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar? It must be the first question any coach who comes up against Barcelona asks, but it is one to which, at the moment, it seems there is no answer.

Bayern Munich's former Barca boss, Pep Guardiola, looking at his former side before their semi-final meeting, effectively decided not to bother. He played three man-markers at the back and pressed high into midfield, remembering, perhaps, how Marcelo Bielsa's Athletic Bilbao had unsettled his Barca. Maybe, he seems to have reasoned, unused as they are to being pressed, Barca's midfield could be shaken by having done to them what they had habitually done to others.

A handful of through balls from Andres Iniesta and Ivan Rakitic and subsequent near misses, he changed tack.

Juventus, less radically, pursued a similar logic in the Champions League Final in Berlin. Although their back four stayed relatively deep, they pressed ferociously. And, for about two-and-a-half minutes, it worked.

Attention...Juve defenders stick close to Messi



BARCELONA 2015

BARCELONA 2011

Javier Mascherano twice misplaced passes. Barca looked rattled. And then, from a throw-in on the left, they held possession for a while to regain their composure, the move slowly blossoming into a 15-pass attack that featured every outfield player, bar Suarez, and ended with Rakitic giving them the lead.

Like Alex Ferguson in 2011, Massimiliano Allegri seemed remarkably relaxed in defeat; both knew that against brilliance there just isn't much you can do.

There were individual flaws in the build-up. Paul Pogba's positioning seemed oddly high and if he'd been nearer to Messi, perhaps he wouldn't have been able to clip that pass out to the left flank so easily, and Arturo Vidal failed to pick up the run of Iniesta, but no side can be at 100 per cent all the time. Mistakes happen. And against a side like Barca there's always a small blanket effect going on; you can't cover everything all of the time.

Juve played with a midfield diamond as part of the plan to congest the middle, effectively surrendering the flanks to Barca, but that created the avenue into which Jordi Alba surged to knock Messi's pass inside for Neymar. As soon as the decision had been taken to play with a front two – and Carlos Tevez and Alvaro Morata are key to how Juve break and to the semi-final victory over Real Madrid – that was always the risk.

You can't keep both your shoulders and your feet warm at the same time.

Three years ago, thanks to the example of Internazionale and Chelsea in the

Talent...Neymar and his fellow front men are all fine dribblers

semi-finals of 2010 and 2012, everybody knew that the best way to deal with Barca was to sit deep, deny them space and verticality, and hope they end up passing the ball square across the pitch. The way Barca have evolved – and the remarkable thing is they have done it with only four changes in outfield personnel in Alba, Rakitic, Neymar and Suarez – makes that a far riskier way to play against them.

Barca's front three are all fine dribblers – and different types of dribbler: the trickery of Neymar, the minimalist shuffle of Messi, the powerful surge of Suarez. Between them, they dribble on average 12 times per Champions League match – as opposed to the 4.1 times per game Messi, Alexis Sanchez and Pedro did in 2011-12 – and that creates big issues for defences.

A blur of feet and they can be past one, two, three opponents – and, once that's happened, any marking structure is in tatters. Other defenders must come across to cover, and when they do, that inevitably leaves other players free. The danger to Barcelona is that running with the ball risks concession of possession: even Messi completes only 65 per cent of his dribbles.

The other major difference between this Barcelona and that of Guardiola is its capacity for directness through midfield. Where Xavi would look always for a simple pass, preserving possession, Rakitic takes more risks. He looks for the instant ball, which is more dangerous when it reaches the forward as the opposing defence is less likely to be set, but presents a greater possibility of the ball being lost. His pass for Messi for his second goal in the first leg of the semi-final against Bayern was the perfect example of that; his pass to Messi for Barca's second in the final showcased his spatial intelligence. The pass was angled slightly to the left which created the angle for Messi to cut back onto his right foot and send a shot goalwards.

> Because they take more risks, this Barca never quite has the control that Guardiola's Barca would

But because they take more risks, this Barca never quite has the control that Guardiola's Barca would – even if it is, paradoxically probably better at defending, or at least at defending in its purest sense. Guardiola's side prioritised one aspect of the game – possession – above all else, and with it dominated games almost absolutely, defending by denying the opposition the ball.

It's easy to imagine that if it had been Guardiola's side that had taken a fourth-minute lead with a brilliant goal, they'd have killed the game – as, say, Ajax did against Juventus after taking an early lead in the 1973 European Cup Final – by holding possession. They probably wouldn't have created as many chances as this Barca did, but equally they wouldn't have left themselves as open to conceding an equaliser after squandering possession.

Buoyed by the equaliser, and by the raucous celebrations from their fans, Juve went on the attack, and for 10 minutes or so the game hung in the balance. But the danger with this Barca is that they are not merely superb with the ball; they are also masters of the counter-attack, as the Suarez and Neymar goals proved.

Midfield clash...Pogba (left) and Rakitic

This Barcelona is more varied than the Guardiola incarnation, is capable of playing in more different ways, and is probably harder to stop. But at the same time it has a vulnerability, lacks the same sense of control. It may be more fun to watch, but whether it is better is a slightly different issue. WS

WHAT THEY SAID

LUIS ENRIQUE
(Barcelona coach):
"This Final was spectacular because it was against a top-level opponent. When they were 1-0 down they caused us a lot of trouble – even though we generated opportunities of our own – before we wrote history again for Barcelona.

"It started perfectly for us by scoring a goal from the first opportunity. We dominated the first half, but Buffon was at absolutely his top level. The second half went as I expected. Juventus started to press more strongly and scored and we felt we had to struggle.

"But I felt we were always superior and we deserved to win.

"This season we have played 60 matches, losing only six and drawing four. I think these figures show this one of the greatest seasons of even such a great club as Barcelona. But the players still have a hunger for all these trophies and titles. We want to keep it going."

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI
(Juventus coach):
"At the end of the game I thanked the team not only because of the extraordinary season but because of the way they played tonight - an extraordinary game. They showed great personality, technique and skill.

"It was a great Final but, unfortunately, when you play against great players and you think you have things under control that greatness enabled them to get away from us just when I thought we were about to score again.

"So we do feel sorry for losing but, above all, we come out of this Final with greater self-esteem, greater confidence and awareness of what we can do. We can consolidate and strengthen our way of playing and stay among the eight top teams in Europe consistently.

"I thought we could win it but the moment we made a mistake Barcelona got away. They have three exceptional strikers who are great on the counter attack so we paid the price for that."

ANDRES INIESTA
(Barcelona, man of the match):
"Juventus made it difficult for us. We had early chances for 2-0 which would have allowed us to play in a more relaxed manner. Still, we won and it's been a spectacular day for us, FC Barcelona, for Barcelona itself and for our supporters.

"Six years ago we thought the treble was impossible to repeat yet now we've done it again.

"It makes my hair stand on end to look back and realise how fortunate I feel to play for FC Barcelona and achieve great success. I don't think, right now, I see its true value - not even 10 per cent of it."

GAVIN HAMILTON

2015 EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL

MAY 27, NATIONAL STADIUM, WARSAW
Dnipro 2 (Kalinic 7, Rotan 44)
Sevilla 3 (Krychowiak 28, Bacca 31, 73)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng). **Att:** 45,000
Dnipro: Boyko; Fedetskyi, Douglas, Cheberyachko, Matos; Kankava (Shakhov 85), Fedorchuk (Bezus 68), Matheus, Rotan, Konoplyanka; Kalinic (Seleznyov 78)
Booked: Kankava, Bezus, Kalinic, Rotan, Matos
Sevilla: Rico; Vidal, Carrico, Kolodziejczak, Tremoulinas; Mbia, Krychowiak; Reyes (Coke 59), Banega (Iborra 89), Vitolo; Bacca (Gameiro 82)
Booked: Krychowiak, Carrico, Bacca

Sevilla make history

Spanish side land record fourth title after exciting victory over Ukraine's Dnipro in Warsaw

The Europa League has had a chequered history since the UEFA Cup morphed into the current competition in 2009. While English clubs have struggled with the midweek format, others elsewhere have failed to see beyond the figures that make it the poor relation – in terms of both prize money and TV audiences – of the Champions League.

But Sevilla are doing their best to single-handedly rescue the Europa League's reputation. After beating Ukraine's Dnipro 3-2 in an exciting Final in Warsaw's national stadium – the first European Final hosted by a Polish city – the Andalusian club celebrated a record fourth victory in the competition.

Gloom...the Dnipro bench sense defeat

Twelve months ago, Unai Emery's side overcame Benfica on penalties in Turin to add to their back-to-back wins over Middlesbrough and Espanyol in the 2006 and 2007 UEFA Cup Finals.

Emery could have been forgiven for casting an envious eye towards the riches on offer in the Champions League this season, yet the coach had no regrets about spending a season toiling in the Europa League. "We care about this competition more than anyone," he had said after watching his side's emphatic victory over Fiorentina in the semi-final.

Ironically, Sevilla's reward for winning in Warsaw will be a place in next season's Champions League – the first time the Europa League winners have been rewarded with automatic entry to the "other" competition.

Emery was keen to reflect on his team's triumph, saying: "Now is not the time to talk about the future. We have demanded a lot of ourselves so we want to enjoy our great achievement right now. The Champions League will be an eye-opener but we'll think about it in the coming days.

"We are closer than ever to Seville, the city and the fans. When football throws up a brilliant moment, you have to live it. It's not easy to win the Europa League as you have to work hard, but obviously we want more. We now have more – we have the Champions League, and we will enjoy it fully because it's a great competition."

Sevilla can be considered worthy winners of this season's Europa League. In the knockout stage, there were victories over Fiorentina, Zenit, Villarreal and Borussia Monchengladbach, and only one loss, to Feyenoord, in the group stage.

Emery, the former Valencia boss, may have lost Ivan Rakitic, the star of last year's Final, to Barcelona at the start of the season, but in Colombian striker Carlos Bacca, he had a worthy man of the match in Warsaw.

Bacca scored twice, including the winner, as Sevilla recovered from an early setback of conceding the opening goal. Bacca's history is fascinating, arriving in Spain via a spell in Belgium. He made his professional debut in Colombia aged 23, having previously made a living as a bus conductor and fresh-fish seller.

Bacca had a half-chance to open the scoring as early as the first minute but flashed his shot over after some clever control had set up the opportunity.

However, it was Dnipro who took the lead on the counter-attack. A long ball was met by Nikola Kalinic, who headed on

Heaven sent... Bacca celebrates his winning goal

> "We are closer than ever to Seville, the city and the fans"
>
> Sevilla coach Unai Emery

into the path of Matheus. The Brazilian returned the compliment with an inviting cross which Kalinic nodded in.

Dnipro's progress to the Final had been by the finest of margins; the Ukrainians scoring only 15 times in 16 matches. But their exceptional defensive qualities now faced their sternest test.

By contrast, Sevilla were the competition's top scorers, and they worked hard to establish control. Grzegorz Krychowiak, back in the stadium where he has become a key figure for Poland's national side, was outstanding as a defensive midfield pivot.

Further forward, Argentinian Ever Banega probed and uncovered openings for Bacca, and two goals in less than four minutes midway through the first half turned the game on its head. First Krychowiak snatched the equaliser from a corner, hooking his shot through the Dnipro defence. Then Bacca ran on to Jose Reyes' clever pass to put Sevilla ahead.

Sevilla should have killed the game off before half-time, but Dnipro were back in it when veteran skipper Ruslan Rotan curled a delightful free-kick over the defensive wall.

The goal set up an intriguing second half but the intensity of Sevilla's play dropped until the substitution of Reyes on the hour allowed the speedy Aleix Vidal to push further forward on the right flank.

The winning goal came from a mistake by Dnipro keeper Denys Boyko, who skied a clearance, allowing Vitolo to stab the ball forward to the alert Bacca, who fired home.

It was a disappointing end for Dnipro following an incredible run in this season's competition. The sequence of victories – over the likes of Napoli, Club Brugge, Ajax and Olympiakos – had been all the more remarkable because they were forced to play all their home games in Kiev, 450km from their home, because of the ongoing violence in the east of Ukraine.

Coach Myron Markevych was the unsung hero of the campaign. He enjoyed a prolonged period of success with Metallist Kharkiv (although he never broke the duopoly of Dynamo Kiev and Shakhtar Donetsk) and joined Dnipro last summer after Juande Ramos – the coach of Sevilla when they won the competition in 2006 and 2007 – moved his family back to Spain as the violence intensified.

Markevych masterfully guided a squad composed of mostly homegrown players, including national team winger Yevhen Konoplyanka. A nervous silence fell on the stadium when one of his foreign charges, Matheus, collapsed in the final minute. The Brazilian left the pitch on a stretcher, the result of a clash of heads a few minutes earlier, but thankfully recovered quickly when he arrived in hospital.

"It looks like he is OK," said Markevych, who was honest about his team's deficiencies. "In previous games we wouldn't have lost a match like this even if we'd only scored once," he said. WS

Cause for concern... Matheus is carried off following a clash of heads

Battle for control... Sevilla's French defender Benoit Tremoulinas out jumps Artem Fedetskyi of Dnipro

KEY MOMENTS

GOAL!

7min Kalinic heads down a long ball and then turns in Matheus's cross with a second header. **Dnipro 1 Sevilla 0**
11min A long shot from Banega goes well over.
20min Reyes shoots into the side netting.
24min Krychowiak's header from a corner is palmed away by Boyko.

GOAL!

28min From a patiently worked corner, Krychowiak's snap shot finds its way past Boyko. **Dnipro 1 Sevilla 1**

GOAL!

31min Bacca runs on to Reyes' weighted through-ball and rounds the keeper to score. **Dnipro 1 Sevilla 2**
37min Konaplyanka's curling long-range shot is tipped over by Rico.

GOAL!

44min Rotan curls a free-kick over the Sevilla wall and into the corner of the net. **Dnipro 2 Sevilla 2**
55min Konoplyanka shoots over.
64min Mbia heads over from a corner.
67min From another corner, an effort by Krychowiak is blocked in the six-yard box.
69min Sevilla claim a penalty after Matheus pushes Vitola.

GOAL!

73min Bacca, played in by Vitolo, shoots past Boyko after Dnipro fail to clear their lines. **Dnipro 2 Sevilla 3**
79min Boyko saves brilliantly from Bacca's close-range header.
89min Matheus collapses on the pitch a minute after a clash of heads with Tremoulinas and is carried off on a stretcher. Dnipro finish the match with 10 men.

JOHN CHAPMAN

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Mat Ryan
(Club Brugge)
The 23-year-old Australian keeper was in great form for his side during the Cup Final, was excellent in the Europa League and proved himself to be consistently good throughout the league campaign.

Hats off to head man Hein

The annual Gent Festival attracts two million visitors and lasts for 10 days. After the city's football club won the title for the first time, the celebrations lasted for a similar period. On the Sunday evening a few days after they had clinched the league crown with a 2-0 victory over Standard, an estimated 125,000 fans watched their heroes parade the trophy along the Leie river on a flotilla of boats.

Gent had not been expected to mount a challenge and their unexpected success was primarily down to one man: coach Hein Vanhaezebrouck.

Little-known outside his homeland,

Parade...Gent celebrate on the Leie river

Vanhaezebrouck was born in Kortrijk but his family moved to Lauwe, not far from the border with France, when he was six months old. And he was expected to follow in the footsteps of his father, who was a headmaster, until football beckoned.

On the field, his career was far from spectacular. He played as a libero with several Flemish clubs, although he did win the third-division title with KRC Harelbeke in 1990.

He got his first coaching post in 2000, as an assistant at Lokeren, and then came his big break when appointed boss of Kortrijk in 2006.

His achievements at Kortrijk, with an annual budget of just €8million, were to make his reputation. In seven seasons, Vanhaezebrouck won the second division title and, following an unhappy interlude at Genk, he returned to Kortrijk and took them to the Belgian Cup Final in 2012.

Appointed at Gent at the beginning of this season, he was the club's sixth coach in 18 months. He cleared out unwanted players, brought in a few new faces and gave prominent roles to some of those he had worked with at Kortrijk. These included Israeli centre-back Rami Gershon, much-travelled midfielder Sven Kums, whom he appointed captain, and youngsters Benito Raman and Brecht Dejaegere.

Vanhaezebrouck is a great motivator, often getting the most out of players who have struggled elsewhere. He's also an astute tactician, favouring a 3-5-2 formation that requires his players to be physically fit and willing to follow instructions. The 51-year-old likes his teams to play football from the back and continually create problems for the opposition.

In a sense, Vanhaezebrouck's teams have always played in the same way – except that now he has a better quality squad. Not that this title-winning team has recognised stars. Goalkeeper Matz Sels and striker Laurent Depoitre both received honourable mentions in the end-of-season Players' Player of the Year awards but they are not household names. Then there's Nigerian winger Moses Simon, signed in January from Slovakian side Trencin as an unknown and who is now on the radar of several bigger clubs.

> "This city has been waiting for the title for such a long time. We have always believed we were capable of doing something"
>
> Gent coach Hein Vanhaezebrouck

Although Gent are one of Belgium's "Big Five", with a budget of €25m, they are some way down the pecking order, behind Anderlecht, Club Brugge, Standard and Genk.

However, two events have shaken things up. The first was in 2013 when Gent inaugurated their new ground. The Ghelamco Arena – which houses a Michelin star restaurant – is the only state-of-the-art stadium in Belgium. The second, and perhaps equally important, was the arrival of their coach.

On top...coach Vanhaezebrouck celebrates with his players

Too much...Club Brugge and boss Preud'homme played 65 games

During the regular season, Vanhaezebrouck kept Gent in the leading pack, but the league format places enormous importance on the play-offs, and Club Brugge – who topped the table by four points – saw their lead over Anderlecht and Gent halved overnight.

During the play-offs, Michel Preud'homme's Club Brugge found the strain of playing on three fronts – league, Belgian Cup and Europa League – too much, while Anderlecht and Standard flattered to deceive. And when those two played out a disappointing draw in Brussels, the spotlight switched to Gent and Vanhaezebrouck. His team didn't choke and significantly, after the title win, he made special mention of sports psychologist Eva Maenhout who joined

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Neeskens Kebano *(Charleroi)*
After failing at Paris Saint-Germain, the midfielder blossomed under Felice Mazzu.

CUP WINNERS
Club Brugge won their first silverware for eight years with a 2-1 victory over Anderlecht.

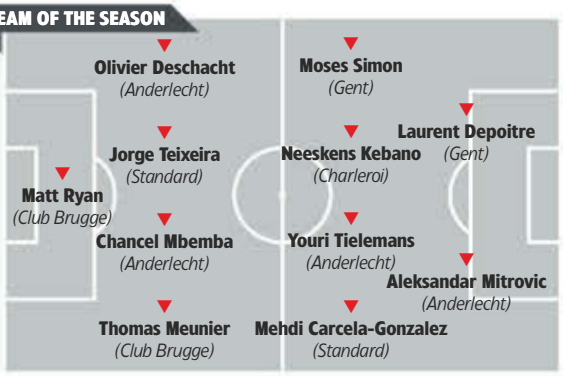
COACH OF THE SEASON
Hein Vanhaezebrouck *(Gent)*
Turned a squad without stars into title winners.

RELEGATED
Lierse finished last in the league but it took them another 11 play-off games before they went down with **Cercle Brugge**.

PROMOTED
Second Division champions **Sint-Truiden** return to the top flight once again, having been relegated in 2012. They will be joined by **Leuven**, who won the promotion play-off – ahead of Eupen, Lierse and Lommel United – are back just one season after they went down.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Gent gain direct entry to the Champions League group stage, while **Club Brugge** go into the third qualifying round. **Anderlecht** are in the Europa League group stage, with **Charleroi** and **Standard** in the second and third qualifying rounds respectively.

TEAM OF THE SEASON



at the turn of the year.

Having lost only one game in 2015 – and that in the 92nd minute – Gent's championship success was richly deserved in a season where coaches have mattered more than players.

Preud'homme did an excellent job at Club Brugge, but having to play 65 games – more than any other team in Europe – saw his team ran out of gas. Anderlecht's Besnik Hasi did all he could to repeat his title win of the previous season but he had problems with a squad containing several inflated egos. In the south, Charleroi's Felice Mazzu worked wonders with a team that had been many people's tip for relegation, while Standard employed three coaches and lurched from crisis to crisis.

But in the end it was Vanhaezebrouck who topped the lot and now Gent fans are demanding a statue in his honour.

The man himself does not seem in favour, however, saying with a smile: "They can be knocked down too easily". **WS**

PRO LEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CLUB BRUGGE	30	17	10	3	69	28	61
GENT	30	16	9	5	52	29	57
ANDERLECHT	30	16	9	5	51	30	57
STANDARD	30	16	5	9	49	39	53
KORTRIJK	30	16	3	11	54	35	51
CHARLEROI	30	14	7	9	44	31	49
GENK	30	13	10	7	38	28	49
LOKEREN	30	10	12	8	38	32	42
MECHELEN	30	10	11	9	37	39	41
OOSTENDE	30	11	5	14	40	52	38
WESTERLO	30	8	9	13	42	63	33
ZULTE WAREGEM	30	8	7	15	41	54	31
MOUSCRON	30	7	5	18	32	51	26
WAASLAND-BEV	30	7	5	18	30	49	26
CERCLE BRUGGE	30	6	6	18	21	45	24
LIERSE	30	5	7	18	30	63	22

TOP GOALSCORERS

Aleksandar Mitrovic *(And'lect)*	*20 goals*
Ivan Santini *(Kortrijk)*	*15 goals*

Euro chase...Anderlect's Andy Najar (left) and Adrien Trebel of Standard

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ANDERLECHT	CERCLE BRUGGE	CHARLEROI	CLUB BRUGGE	GENK	GENT	KORTRIJK	LIERSE	LOKEREN	MECHELEN	MOUSCRON	OOSTENDE	STANDARD	W'LAND-BEVEREN	WESTERLO	ZULTE-WAREGEM
ANDERLECHT		3-2	1-0	2-2	0-0	1-2	2-0	3-0	1-1	1-1	3-1	3-0	0-2	1-0	4-0	0-0
CERCLE BRUGGE	0-2		1-0	0-3	0-1	0-0	0-4	1-2	1-0	2-3	2-1	0-1	0-1	1-0	1-2	2-2
CHARLEROI	3-1	0-2		0-0	1-0	0-0	0-2	6-0	1-0	2-0	2-0	2-0	0-1	2-2	2-3	2-1
CLUB BRUGGE	2-2	1-1	1-0		4-1	2-2	5-0	1-0	1-1	1-1	3-0	2-0	3-0	4-2	5-0	2-1
GENK	0-1	1-1	1-1	1-1		3-2	3-0	3-0	0-0	3-0	2-0	1-1	0-2	1-0	3-1	3-2
GENT	0-2	4-0	2-2	2-1	0-0		0-1	2-1	1-1	3-1	1-0	3-1	1-2	4-1	4-0	3-1
KORTRIJK	2-3	1-0	0-0	2-0	1-1	2-3		1-0	2-3	3-0	3-0	0-2	2-3	2-1	6-0	3-1
LIERSE	2-2	2-1	0-2	0-6	0-2	0-1	0-0		1-1	0-1	2-2	2-0	2-3	1-1	3-3	3-1
LOKEREN	1-2	0-0	5-2	1-3	1-1	3-3	1-2	2-0		3-2	1-0	3-1	1-1	3-0	0-0	2-1
MECHELEN	1-1	1-1	0-0	3-1	3-1	0-0	1-2	2-1	0-1		1-0	0-0	1-0	2-0	5-2	1-1
MOUSCRON	4-2	4-0	0-2	1-4	1-2	1-3	0-3	2-1	2-2	1-1		0-1	5-2	1-0	1-0	0-1
OOSTENDE	0-2	2-0	1-3	2-2	1-1	1-3	1-7	2-1	0-1	2-0	0-0		3-2	4-3	4-0	1-3
STANDARD	2-0	1-0	3-0	1-3	1-0	0-1	0-2	2-2	2-0	2-0	3-0	3-5		3-2	2-2	1-2
W'LAND-BEVEREN	0-2	1-0	1-3	0-2	0-1	0-1	1-0	2-0	0-0	2-2	2-1	1-0	0-2		1-1	1-3
WESTERLO	2-2	1-0	2-3	1-3	1-2	0-0	2-1	6-1	1-0	1-1	1-3	3-0	1-1	1-2		2-2
ZULTE-WAREGEM	0-2	1-2	1-3	1-1	2-0	2-1	2-0	2-3	1-0	2-3	1-1	1-4	1-1	1-4	1-3	

CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GENT	10	6	2	2	18	11	49
CLUB BRUGGE	10	5	1	4	16	16	47
ANDERLECHT	10	5	2	3	18	13	46
STANDARD	10	4	1	5	14	13	40
CHARLEROI	10	3	2	5	13	15	36
KORTRIJK	10	2	2	6	11	22	34

Teams carried forward half their regular-season points (rounded up)

CHAMP'SHIP P-OFF

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ANDERLECHT	CHARLEROI	CLUB BRUGGE	GENT	KORTRIJK	STANDARD
ANDERLECHT		1-0	3-1	2-1	5-1	1-1
CHARLEROI	0-1		2-3	2-1	5-2	1-0
CLUB BRUGGE	2-1	3-1		2-3	1-0	2-1
GENT	2-1	1-1	2-2		2-0	2-0
KORTRIJK	2-2	1-1	2-0	0-1		3-1
STANDARD	3-1	2-0	1-0	1-3	4-0	

PLAY-OFFS GROUP A

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	GENK	MECHELEN	WAASLAND	ZULTE
GENK		1-0	7-1	1-0
MECHELEN	4-0		4-1	3-0
WAASLAND-BEVEREN	0-2	1-2		0-2
ZULTE-WAREGEM	2-3	0-1	2-2	

PLAY-OFFS GROUP B

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	LOKEREN	MOUSCRON	OOSTENDE	WESTERLO
LOKEREN		2-1	6-1	1-1
MOUSCRON	1-5		2-0	1-1
OOSTENDE	1-2	0-1		2-0
WESTERLO	4-3	0-3	1-2	

European play-offs qualifier
Lokeren v Mechelen 2-2, 1-2 (agg 3-4)

European play-offs Final
Mechelen v Charleroi 2-1, 0-2 (agg 2-3)

SAM BECKWITH

Triumph tinged with tragedy

Viktoria Plzen's third league title in five years was put into perspective by the loss of midfielder Daniel Kolar's wife, Tereza, to cancer in December, and defender Marian Cisovsky's ongoing struggle with serious illness.

Unable to play since April last year, 35-year-old Cisovsky joined his team-mates for an emotional celebration on the pitch as they won the championship with two games to spare.

"I am a hard man, but I had tears in my eyes because of Marian," said coach Miroslav Koubek of the Slovakian who is reported to be suffering from motor neurone disease. "If I could swap the title I have been waiting for 32 years, for his health, I would do it immediately."

It was a tragic backdrop to what would otherwise have been a deeply satisfying triumph for Koubek.

Appointed in August, after Dusan Uhrin Jr failed to qualify for the Europa League group stage, Koubek was an unpopular choice with many Plzen fans. Sacked by Slavia Prague last season, he came close to winning the league five years ago before his Banik Ostrava side blew their lead with two games to go. Most damning, though, was a previous stint as Plzen coach, which had ended in relegation in 2001.

> "I am a hard man, but I had tears in my eyes because of Marian"
> Plzen coach Miroslav Koubek on defender Marian Cisovsky

Despite an initially hostile reception, Koubek took Plzen to the top of the table in his first game in charge and – one or two blips notwithstanding – they remained there for virtually the entire campaign, twice beating Sparta 2-0 along the way.

Given the acrimonious relationship between the two clubs in recent years, those victories were particularly sweet. Viktoria's squad also contained players ditched by Sparta earlier in their careers, such as David Limbersky, Daniel Kolar, Milan Petrzela and Jan Holenda.

The rancour between the clubs reached its peak in 2012 when Sparta owner Daniel Kretinsky accused Plzen officials of bribing referees. This time, however, he accepted Plzen's success in good grace, commenting: "Viktoria Plzen beat us twice this season in fair, direct competition, with an aggregate score of 4-0. The title and congratulations justly belong to them."

Tragic...Viktoria Plzen defender Cisovsky is seriously ill

Koubek stuck with the club's attack-oriented blueprint on taking charge and the fact that only two outfield players failed to score gives a clear indication of their inclination. His success also proved that Plzen no longer depend on veteran playmaker, Pavel Horvath. The iconic midfielder played a relatively minor on-field role in his latest campaign and, aged 40, he has now retired and taken on an assistant coach's role.

Plzen's continuing success is bad news for Sparta who finished trophyless after the previous season's league/cup/Super Cup treble. They stood by coach Vitezslav Lavicka despite failing to reach the Champions League group stage or make it through the same phase of the Europa League. But by April they had been knocked out of the Czech Cup at the quarter-final stage and were five points behind Plzen in the league, prompting Kretinsky to bring in Zdenek Scasny for the last seven games. **WS**

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Pavel Kaderabek
(Sparta Prague, above left)
The pacey 23-year-old right-back/midfielder was hugely impressive for Sparta and is being chased by Hoffenheim.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Ales Mateju
(Pribram)
Eighteen-year-old right-back who returned from a year's loan spell with PSV to become the Czech league's brightest rising star. He will join champions Plzen over the summer.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Miroslav Koubek
(Viktoria Plzen)
Once a reserve goalkeeper at Sparta, the 63-year-old masterminded Plzen's triumph over his former club to win over the sceptics and clinch the first league title of his career.

CUP WINNERS
Slovan Liberec beat regional rivals Jablonec on penalties, after a 1-1 draw, to lift the Czech Cup for the second time.

RELEGATED
Hradec Kralove and **Ceske Budejovice**.

PROMOTED
Sigma Olomouc and **Varnsdorf**.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Viktoria Plzen and **Sparta Prague** start in the Champions League; **Slovan Liberec**, **Jablonec** and **Mlada Boleslav** are in the Europa League qualifiers.

LIGA 1 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIKTORIA PLZEN	30	23	3	4	70	24	72
SPARTA	30	21	4	5	57	20	67
JABLONEC	30	19	7	4	58	22	64
MLADA BOLESLAV	30	13	7	10	43	34	46
PRIBRAM	30	12	7	11	40	45	43
DUKLA	30	11	8	11	34	40	41
TEPLICE	30	9	11	10	41	37	38
BOH'IANS 1905	30	10	8	12	35	41	38
SLOVACKO	30	10	7	13	43	46	37
JIHLAVA	30	10	6	14	33	38	36
SLAVIA	30	9	7	14	40	45	34
SLOVAN LIBEREC	30	7	12	11	39	43	33
BRNO	30	9	6	15	34	45	33
BANIK OSTRAVA	30	8	9	13	23	41	33
H KRALOVE	30	6	7	17	26	52	25
C BUD'VICE	30	5	7	18	29	72	22

TOP GOALSCORERS

David Lafata *(Sparta Prague)*	*20 goals*
Milan Skoda *(Slavia Prague)*	*19 goals*
Libor Dosek *(Slovacko)*	*16 goals*

DENMARK

JIM HOLDEN

COACH OF THE SEASON
Glen Riddersholm
(Midtjylland, right)
Bold, intelligent boss of the champions who is now being linked with a move to a big club overseas.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Pione Sisto
(Midtjylland)
A 20-year-old midfielder who was born in Uganda, of Southern Sudanese parents, and has won under-21 caps for Denmark.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Erik Sviatchenko
(Midtjylland)
Defender who was the heartbeat of the champions.

RELEGATED
Silkeborg and **Vestsjaelland**.

CUP WINNERS
Copenhagen won the Cup for a sixth time, beating Vestsjaelland – who were making their debut in the Final – 3-2 with an extra-time winner from 19-year-old Faroese midfielder Brandur Olsen.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Midtjylland are in the Champions League; **Brondby**, **Copenhagen** and **Randers** enter the Europa League.

PROMOTED
Viborg and **AGF**.

The appliance of science

The land of Hans Christian Andersen loves a fairy tale, none more so than the national side's famous triumph at the 1992 European Championship. This year, the country has gloried in the success of Midtjylland, who captured their first Superliga title with the rigorous appliance of science.

Formed 16 years ago from a merger between Ikast FS and Herning Fremad, the minnows have been transformed by innovative coach Glen Riddersholm and a "Moneyball" approach to transfers.

The club's majority shareholder is Matthew Benham, a former hedge-fund manager and professional gambler who also owns English second-tier side Brentford. And with no star names in their ranks, Midtjylland shrugged off the challenge of Denmark's major clubs Copenhagen and Brondby to secure the title with three games to spare.

"We look to be creative in everything we do and go beyond the old conservative ways of looking at football," explains Riddersholm. "We don't have the money of FC Copenhagen or Brondby, so we need to be better in other aspects.

"When Matthew took over the club, we set up a fantastic scouting system focusing on more than 60 different leagues. We look at players from a statistical and mathematical point of view.

"It's not only statistics, though. We also make sure players have the mental and human qualities we are looking for, and since this system started every single player we have signed has been a success. That's extremely unusual."

One of those is Martin Pusic, an unheralded 27-year-old striker from Austria who had been at nine previous clubs across Europe without success. Another is 31-year-old Denmark international midfielder Jakob Poulsen.

Midtjylland began the campaign with a 3-1 victory against Brondby and never looked back. A win away to Copenhagen in the fifth round of games cemented a leadership of the table that was never remotely threatened.

> "We look at players from a statistical and mathematical point of view"
> Midtjylland coach Glen Riddersholm

Far and away the Superliga's top scorers, Riddersholm's brand of attacking football is helped by his side being among Europe's most prolific at set-pieces. This is just another element of their scientific approach, with a mountain of detail being used to prepare for games and in post-match analysis.

"Before every game. I receive a huge amount of data on the team we're going to face," says 43-year-old Riddersholm, who took charge in 2011 after a spell as coach of the national under-17 side.

"It's the same at half-time. I'll receive a text message with various statistics about the pattern of the game and the performance of both teams and players.

"Set-piece situations are something we've focused closely on for the past three years. We have a coach who specialises in how to strike the ball and he works with the young players and first-team guys.

"There are also specialists from other sports who give advice. We try to leave nothing to chance."

Copenhagen and Brondby trailed in behind the champions, having been pushed all the way by another small club, Randers, under the guidance of English boss Colin Todd. **WS**

Magical Midtjylland... Nigerian striker Sylvester Igboun leads the celebrations as the club celebrate their first league title

SUPERLIGA 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MIDTJYLLAND	33	22	5	6	64	34	71
COPENHAGEN	33	20	7	6	40	22	67
BRONDBY	33	16	7	10	43	29	55
RANDERS	33	14	10	9	39	28	52
AAB	33	13	9	11	39	31	48
NORDSJAELLAND	33	13	5	15	39	44	44
HOBRO	33	11	10	12	40	47	43
ESBJERG	33	10	10	13	47	45	40
OB	33	11	7	15	35	43	40
SONDERJYSKE	33	7	16	10	35	44	37
VESTSJAELLAND	33	9	6	18	31	52	33
SILKEBORG	33	2	8	23	26	59	14

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Mads Hvilsom *(Hobro)*	*16 goals*
Martin Pusic *(Esbjerg/Midtjylland)*	*16 goals*
Morten Rasmussen *(Midtjylland)*	*13 goals*

GAVIN HAMILTON

Super-strength Chelsea see off all challengers

From October onwards, there was barely a point in the season when Chelsea's title ever looked in doubt. After a stirring first half of the campaign, they were in cruise control after Christmas, grinding out results without ever playing spectacularly.

Manager Jose Mourinho's first season back in England had been a hit-and-miss affair, but last summer, buoyed by new arrivals in the transfer market, he felt his side were well placed for a title challenge. And so it proved.

Chelsea hit the ground running with four consecutive Premier League wins, scoring 15 goals (including seven for new signing Diego Costa), and did not look back from there on. Only a late equaliser from old boy Frank Lampard, playing for Manchester City before heading off to Major League Soccer, prevented Chelsea from a fifth straight victory.

Chelsea were bolstered by the summer additions of goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, midfielder Cesc Fabregas and striker Costa. Mourinho had assembled his best XI and he stuck with it through the autumn and winter months, rarely rotating. When Costa was unavailable through injury, old boy Didier Drogba filled in.

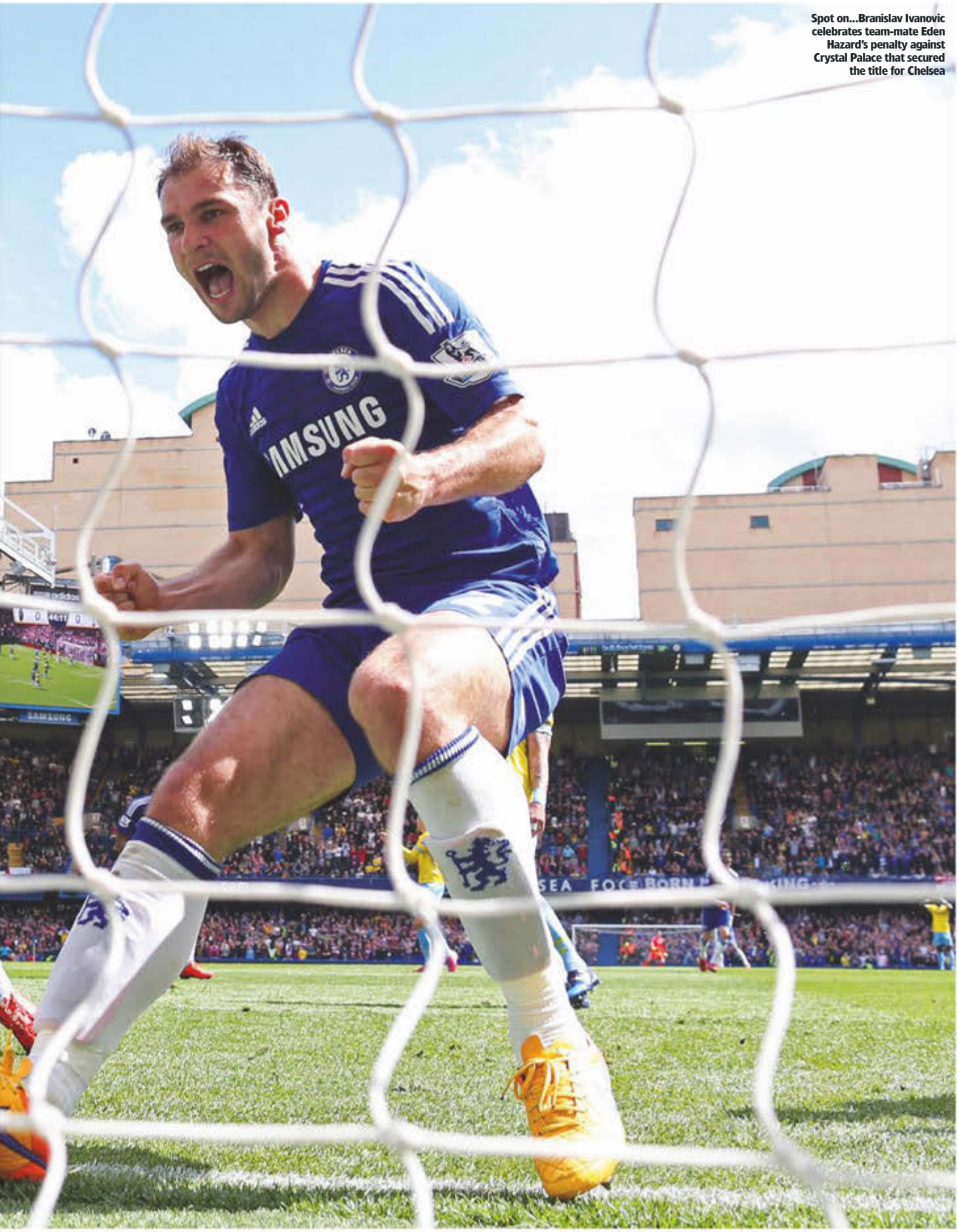
Back after a loan spell in Spain, Courtois was an outstanding addition, while Nemanja Matic, having joined in January 2014, started the new season in fine form. The key attacking midfield axis between Cesc Fabregas and Eden Hazard bamboozled most opposition defences, while at the other end John Terry found new reserves of defensive strength.

Mourinho's season was not without controversy. After a 1-1 draw with Southampton, he complained: "There is a campaign against Chelsea. I don't know why there is this campaign and I do not care." And Chelsea had their blips – such ▸

"There is a campaign against Chelsea. I don't know why there is this campaign and I do not care"

Jose Mourinho gets paranoid early in the season

Three...its another Premier title for Chelsea's boss



Spot on...Branislav Ivanovic celebrates team-mate Eden Hazard's penalty against Crystal Palace that secured the title for Chelsea

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Eden Hazard
(Chelsea)
The Belgian provided the flair and extra quality that drove Chelsea to the title. He weighed in with 14 goals, many of which were penalties that he won himself. Mourinho says he would cost "€100m ...for each leg".

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Harry Kane
(Tottenham Hotspur)
The 21-year-old striker enjoyed a remarkable rise that culminated in a goal on his senior England debut. A rare home-grown goalscoring hero among the expensive Premier League imports.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Jose Mourinho
(Chelsea)
Won the title in his second season back at Stamford Bridge. His accusation that Chelsea were victims of a "conspiracy" was dismissed as fanciful but there was no denying the strength of the side that he has built.

RELEGATED
Hull City, after two seasons in the top flight, went down on the final day, They joined **Burnley**, who battled hard but lacked quality, and **QPR**, who spent heavily, but in vain.

PROMOTED
Bournemouth, **Watford** and **Norwich City**.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Chelsea, **Manchester City** and **Arsenal** go into the Champions League group stage, while **Manchester United** are in the qualifiers. **Tottenham** and **Liverpool** are in the Europa League group phase, with **Southampton** and fairplay winners **West Ham** in the qualifiers.

as losing 5-3 to Tottenham Hotspur on New Year's Day – but their closest challengers, Manchester City and Arsenal, failed to land serious blows. Manchester United, meanwhile, were regrouping under Louis Van Gaal and Liverpool, missing the goals of Luis Suarez (now in Barcelona) and Daniel Sturridge (mostly injured), never came close to matching the intensity of their previous season's challenge.

City faded again in the Spring, with Yaya Toure, who had been so crucial to the previous season's title success, a shadow of his former self.

Arsenal rallied with performances that suggested they could push Chelsea to the wire, but Mourinho's men ground out results in April and May to claim the title.

"April was the month people were waiting for Chelsea to sleep, to lose a game," Mourinho said. "And it was exactly the month where we were phenomenal."

Howver, the major blot on the Chelsea landscape was their failure in the Champions League. After cruising through the group stage, they appeared to have done the hard work against Paris Saint-Germain in the round of 16 by drawing 1-1 in France. But back at Stamford Bridge, Chelsea lacked their early-season swagger. PSG lost Zlatan Ibrahimovic to an early red card – after Chelsea's players had swarmed around the referee to demand his expulsion – but fought on with 10 men to draw 2-2 and take the tie on away goals

Arsenal and Manchester City did not fare any better, leaving English football

> "April was the month people were waiting for Chelsea to sleep, to lose a game. And it was exactly the month where we were phenomenal" Mourinho

with no teams in the quarter-finals for the second time in three seasons. The failure of Liverpool, Tottenham and Everton in the Europa League only added to the sense of frustration that such a wealthy league can produce teams that underachieve so spectacularly in Europe.

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich once had dreams of emulating Barcelona, both on and off the pitch, and fell out spectacularly with Mourinho when the "Special One" was sacked in 2007. For now he seems content to allow Mourinho's aggressive pragmatism to dominate; a change of heart that can be attributed to the growing influence of director Marina Granovskaia, the woman who has been described as Abramovich's "eyes and ears" within the club.

The publicity-shy Granovskaia is probably the most powerful woman in world football, having played a crucial role in luring Mourinho back to the club in 2013. She has taken charge of Chelsea's transfer dealings and is seen as the driving force behind the policy in which talented youngsters have been farmed out on loan to satellite clubs to gain playing time and increase their value. Romelu Lukaku was sold to Everton for £28million last summer after loan spells on Merseyside and at West Bromwich Albion.

Chelsea ended the season with more than 70 players on their books. Almost 30 spent all or part of the campaign on loan elsewhere. They ranged from the impressive young English striker Patrick Bamford at Middlesbrough to the much-travelled French midfielder Gael Kakuta at Rayo Vallecano.

Further signings are expected to be farmed out this summer. Romanian teenager Cristian Manea, the latest signing who has joined from Viitorul Constanta, is set to be loaned out to Dutch club Vitesse.

The strategy has helped reduce their outgoings to comply with Financial Fairplay regulations, but Chelsea remained among the league's highest-paying clubs in the Premier League. Their annual wage bill,

Safe...Newcastle beat West Ham to stay up

CUP WINNERS
Arsenal retained the FA Cup with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Aston Villa at Wembley. Villa found themselves totally out-thought and outclassed by a vibrant Gunners side that was inspired by Theo Walcott, Santi Cazorla and Alexis Sanchez.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

at £192.7m, was less than the two Manchester clubs (United on £215.8m, City £205m) but ahead of London rivals Arsenal (£166.4m).

Generally, the final league positions tallied very closely with club wage bills. The top four clubs paid the most, ahead of fifth-place Liverpool on £144m and Tottenham (£100.4m) in sixth. Burnley, relegated after one season in the top flight, had the lowest bill, at £21.4m.

There were some notable exceptions to this, of course.

Southampton, despite losing key players Adam Lallana, Rickie Lambert and Dejan Lovren to Liverpool, as well as manager Mauricio Pochettino to Tottenham, continued to punch above their weight. They finished seventh in the league to qualify for European competition for the first time since 2003, despite having the 15th highest wage bill.

PREMIER LEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CHELSEA	38	26	9	3	73	32	87
MAN CITY	38	24	7	7	83	38	79
ARSENAL	38	22	9	7	71	36	75
MAN UNITED	38	20	10	8	62	37	70
TOTTENHAM	38	19	7	12	58	53	64
LIVERPOOL	38	18	8	12	52	48	62
SOUTHAMPTON	38	18	6	14	54	33	60
SWANSEA	38	16	8	14	46	49	56
STOKE	38	15	9	14	48	45	54
CRYSTAL PALACE	38	13	9	16	47	51	48
EVERTON	38	12	11	15	48	50	47
WEST HAM	38	12	11	15	44	47	47
WEST BROM	38	11	11	16	38	51	44
LEICESTER	38	11	8	19	46	55	41
NEWCASTLE	38	10	9	19	40	63	39
SUNDERLAND	38	7	17	14	31	53	38
ASTON VILLA	38	10	8	20	31	57	38
HULL	38	8	11	19	33	51	35
BURNLEY	38	7	12	19	28	53	33
QPR	38	8	6	24	42	73	30

TOP GOALSCORERS

Sergio Aguero *(Manchester City)*	*26 goals*
Harry Kane *(Tottenham Hotspur)*	*21 goals*
Diego Costa *(Chelsea)*	*20 goals*
Charlie Austin *(Queens Park Rangers)*	*18 goals*

By contrast, Queens Park Rangers, with a wage bill of £75.3m, the eighth highest in the league, were relegated, along with Burnley and Hull City.

Swansea City continued to make progress, despite the January sale of Wilfried Bony to Manchester City, while Crystal Palace, in the relegation zone when Alan Pardew left Newcastle United to take over in January, finished in the top 10.

As Palace moved up the table, so Newcastle dropped, losing nine games in a row under caretaker boss John Carver and needing a last-day victory over West Ham United to stay up at the expense of Hull.

Newcastle owner Mike Ashley came under increasing fire from fans for his stewardship of the club. The London-based billionaire sports retailer appeared happy for the club to act as little more than an advertising hoarding for his business, bumping along the lower reaches of the league, selling their best players but avoiding relegation and expensive excursions into Europe.

Next season will put Ashley's risky strategy to the test. The latest bumper TV deal kicks in next summer, making it imperative for clubs to survive next season in order to benefit from the bonanza.

West Ham's ditching of Sam Allardyce, and his replacement by former defender Slaven Bilic, is a calculated gamble. The club's owners want a more attack-minded team to attract fans when the club move to the Olympic stadium in 2016. Allardyce failed to provide that, but his record of keeping teams in the top flight, notably Bolton Wanderers and now West Ham, is exemplary.

Result...Southampton punched above their weight in terms of money spent on wages

The price of relegation from the Premier League has become all too clear in recent years. Of the teams who went down 12 months ago, only Norwich City came back up this season, with Cardiff City and Fulham failing to trouble the play-off places. Wigan Athletic, relegated two seasons ago, dropped into League One.

The troubles of the recently relegated sides makes the achievement of Bournemouth all the more remarkable.

The south-coast club were 10 minutes away from slipping out of the Football League altogether on the final home game of the 2008–09 season but have since enjoyed a rapid rise through the divisions, culminating in promotion to the Premier League as winners of this season's Championship.

Manager Eddie Howe, a former Bournemouth player dubbed the "English Special One" by Gary Lineker, has overseen much of the club's tranformation. Yet it is not a complete rags to riches tale. Russian owner Maxim Demin has put more than £25m into the club in recent seasons. Although the exact extent of his wealth is unclear, the reclusive Demin can now look forward to sharing in the Premier League's growing wealth. **WS**

Remarkable..manager Howe and Bournmouth are in the big time

Aug 16, 2014 **Arsenal 2** (Koscielny 45+1, Ramsey 90+1)
Crystal Palace 1 (Hangeland 35) Att: 59,962

Leicester 2 (Ulloa 22, Wood 86)
Everton 2 (McGeady 20, Naismith 45) Att: 31,603

Manchester United 1 (Rooney 53)
Swansea 2 (Ki 28, Sigurdsson 72) Att: 75,339

Queens Park Rangers 0
Hull 1 (Chester 52) Att: 17,603

Stoke 0
Aston Villa 1 (Weimann 50) Att: 27,478

West Bromwich 2 (Berahino pen 42, 74)
Sunderland 2 (Cattermole 5, Larsson 85)
Att: 25,468

West Ham 0
Tottenham 1 (Dier 90+3) Att: 34,977

Aug 17 **Liverpool 2** (Sterling 23, Sturridge 79)
Southampton 1 (Clyne 56) Att: 44,736

Newcastle 0
Manchester City 2 (Silva 38, Aguero 90+2)
Att: 50,816

Aug 18 **Burnley 1** (Arfield 14)
Chelsea 3 (Diego Costa 17, Schurrle 21, Ivanovic 34) Att: 20,699

Aug 23 **Aston Villa 0**
Newcastle 0 Att: 30,267

Chelsea 2 (Diego Costa 62, Hazard 77)
Leicester 0 Att: 41,604

Crystal Palace 1 (Chamakh 48)
West Ham 3 (Zarate 34, Downing 37, Cole 62)
Att: 24,242

Everton 2 (Coleman 19, Naismith 45)
Arsenal 2 (Ramsey 83, Giroud 90) Att: 39,490

Southampton 0
West Bromwich 0 Att: 27,598

Swansea 1 (Dyer 23)
Burnley 0 Att: 20,565

Aug 24 **Hull 1** (Jelavic 42)
Stoke 1 (Shawcross 83) Att: 24,348

Sunderland 1 (Rodwell 30)
Manchester United 1 (Mata 17) Att: 43,217

Tottenham 4 (Chadli 12, 37, Dier 30, Adebayor 65)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 36,109

Aug 25 **Manchester City 3** (Jovetic 41, 55, Aguero 69)
Liverpool 1 (Zabaleta og 83) Att: 45,471

Aug 30 **Burnley 0**
Manchester United 0 Att: 21,099

Everton 3 (Mirallas 45, Naismith 69, Eto'o 76)
Chelsea 6 (Diego Costa 1, 90, Ivanovic 3, Coleman og 67, Matic 74, Ramires 77) Att: 39,402

Manchester City 0
Stoke 1 (Diouf 58) Att: 45,622

Newcastle 3 (Janmaat 37, Aarons 73, Williamson 88)
Crystal Palace 3 (Gayle 1, Puncheon 48, Zaha 90+5) Att: 49,226

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 45+2)
Sunderland 0 Att: 17,930

Swansea 3 (Dyer 2, 71, Routledge 24)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 20,318

Mersey derby...Liverpool and Everton

Tough...QPR's Loic Remy bursts through the Hull defence but it was to be a miserable season for both clubs

West Ham 1 (Noble 27)
Southampton 3 (Schneiderlin 45, 68, Pelle 83)
Att: 34,907

Aug 31 **Aston Villa 2** (Agbonlahor 14, Weimann 36)
Hull 1 (Jelavic 74) Att: 28,336

Leicester 1 (Ulloa 22)
Arsenal 1 (Sanchez 20) Att: 31,535

Tottenham 0
Liverpool 3 (Sterling 8, Gerrard pen 49, Moreno 60) Att: 36,130

Sep 13 **Arsenal 2** (Wilshere 63, Sanchez 74)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero 28, Demichelis 83)
Att: 60,003

Chelsea 4 (Diego Costa 45, 56, 67, Remy 81)
Swansea 2 (Terry og 11, Shelvey 86) Att: 41,400

Crystal Palace 0
Burnley 0 Att: 23,829

Liverpool 0
Aston Villa 1 (Agbonlahor 9) Att: 44,689

Southampton 4 (Pelle 6, 19, Cork 54, Schneiderlin 90+4)
Newcastle 0 Att: 29,678

Stoke 0
Leicester 1 (Ulloa 64) Att: 27,500

Sunderland 2 (Johnson 4, Kane og 82)
Tottenham 2 (Chadli 2, Eriksen 48) Att: 40,799

West Bromwich 0
Everton 2 (Lukaku 2, Mirallas 66) Att: 23,567

Sep 14 **Manchester United 4** (Di Maria 24, Ander Herrera 36, Rooney 44, Mata 58)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 75,355

Sep 15 **Hull 2** (Hernandez 39, Diame 64)
West Ham 2 (Valencia 50, Sakho 67) Att: 21,275

Sep 20 **Aston Villa 0**
Arsenal 3 (Ozil 32, Welbeck 34, Cissokho og 36)
Att: 40,013

Burnley 0
Sunderland 0 Att: 20,026

Newcastle 2 (Cisse 73, 87)
Hull 2 (Jelavic 48, Diame 68) Att: 49,119

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Caulker 42, Kranjcar 88)
Stoke 2 (Diouf 11, Crouch 51) Att: 16,163

Swansea 0
Southampton 1 (Wanyama 80) Att: 20,596

West Ham 3 (Reid 2, Sakho 7, Amalfitano 88)
Liverpool 1 (Sterling 26) Att: 34,977

Sep 21 **Everton 2** (Lukaku 9, Baines pen 83)
Crystal Palace 3 (Jedinak pen 30, Campbell 54, Bolasie 69) Att: 37,574

KEY GAME
Leicester 5 (Ulloa 17, pen 83, Nugent pen 62, Cambiasso 64, Vardy 79)
Manchester United 3 (Van Persie 13, Di Maria 16, Ander Herrera 57) Att: 31,784
Louis Van Gaal's United throw away a 3-1 lead to newly promoted Leicester.

Manchester City 1 (Lampard 85)
Chelsea 1 (Schurrle 71) Att: 45,602

Tottenham 0
West Bromwich 1 (Morrison 74) Att: 35,861

Sep 27 **Arsenal 1** (Oxlade-Chamberlain 74)
Tottenham 1 (Chadli 56) Att: 59,900

Chelsea 3 (Oscar 7, Diego Costa 59, Willian 79)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 41,616

Crystal Palace 2 (Campbell 51, Jedinak 54)
Leicester 0 Att: 24,311

Hull 2 (Mangala og 21, Hernandez pen 32)
Manchester City 4 (Aguero 7, Dzeko 11, 68, Lampard 87) Att: 22,859

Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 65)
Everton 1 (Jagielka 90+1) Att: 44,511

Manchester United 2 (Rooney 5, Van Persie 22)
West Ham 1 (Sakho 37) Att: 75,317

Southampton 2 (Bertrand 54, Pelle 68)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 66) Att: 30,504

Sunderland 0
Swansea 0 Att: 41,325

Sep 28 **West Bromwich 4** (Dawson 30, Berahino 45+1, 56, Dorrans 90)
Burnley 0 Att: 24,286

Sep 29 **Stoke 1** (Crouch 15)
Newcastle 0 Att: 26,332

Oct 4 **Aston Villa 0**
Manchester City 2 (Toure 82, Aguero 88) Att: 32,964

Hull 2 (Diame 60, Jelavic 89)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 24,281

Leicester 2 (Schlupp 33, Mahrez 40)
Burnley 2 (Kightly 39, Wallace 90+6) Att: 31,448

Liverpool 2 (Lallana 45, Henderson 61)
West Bromwich 1 (Berahino pen 56) Att: 44,708

Sunderland 3 (Wickham 4, Fletcher 23, 79)
Stoke 1 (Adam 15) Att: 42,713

Swansea 2 (Bony 17, Routledge 50)
Newcastle 2 (Cisse 43, 75) Att: 20,622

Oct 5 **KEY GAME**
Chelsea 2 (Hazard pen 27, Diego Costa 78)
Arsenal 0 Att: 41,607
Managers Jose Mourinho and Arsene Wenger clashed on the touchline as Chelsea consolidate an early five-point lead.

Manchester United 2 (Di Maria 27, Falcao 62)
Everton 1 (Naismith 55) Att: 75,294

Tottenham 1 (Eriksen 40)
Southampton 0 Att: 35,564

West Ham 2 (Onuoha og 5, Sakho 59)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 34,907

Oct 18 **Arsenal 2** (Sanchez 13, Welbeck 90+1)
Hull 2 (Diame 17, Hernandez 46) Att: 60,004

Burnley 1 (Boyd 60)
West Ham 3 (Sakho 49, Valencia 54, Cole 70)
Att: 18,936

Crystal Palace 1 (Campbell 90)
Chelsea 2 (Oscar 6, Fabregas 51) Att: 24,451

Everton 3 (Jagielka 18, Lukaku 48, Coleman 76)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 39,505

Manchester City 4 (Aguero 13, pen 20, pen 68, 75)
Tottenham 1 (Eriksen 15) Att: 45,549

Newcastle 1 (Obertan 71)
Leicester 0 Att: 51,886

Southampton 8 (Vergini og 12, Pelle 18, 69, Cork 37, Bridcutt og 63, Tadic 78, Wanyama 79, Mane 86)
Sunderland 0 Att: 29,615

Oct 19 **Queens Park Rangers 2** (Vargas 87, 90+2)
Liverpool 3 (Dunne og 67, Coutinho 90, Caulker og 90+5) Att: 18,069

Stoke 2 (Adam pen 43, Walters 76)
Swansea 1 (Bony pen 34) Att: 27,017

Oct 20 **West Bromwich 2** (Sessegnon 8, Berahino 66)
Manchester United 2 (Fellaini 48, Blind 87)
Att: 25,794

Oct 25 **Liverpool 0**
Hull 0 Att: 44,591

Southampton 1 (Mane 33)
Stoke 0 Att: 30,017

Sunderland 0
Arsenal 2 (Sanchez 30, 90+2) Att: 44,449

Swansea 2 (Bony 34, 57)
Leicester 0 Att: 20,259

West Bromwich 2 (Anichebe 51, Berahino pen 90+3)
Crystal Palace 2 (Hangeland 16, Jedinak pen 45+1) Att: 24,738

West Ham 2 (Amalfitano 21, Sakho 75)
Manchester City 1 (Silva 77) Att: 34,977

Oct 26 **Burnley 1** (Ings 20)
Everton 3 (Eto'o 4, 85, Lukaku 29) Att: 19,927

KEY GAME

Manchester United 1 (Van Persie 90+4)
Chelsea 1 (Drogba 53) Att: 75,327

Robin Van Persie's injury-time equaliser denies Chelsea the chance to extend their lead at the top of the table.

Tottenham 1 (Adebayor 18)
Newcastle 2 (Ameobi 46, Perez 58) Att: 35,650

Oct 27 **Queens Park Rangers 2** (Austin 17, 69)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 18,022

Nov 1 **Arsenal 3** (Sanchez 70, 90+1, Chambers 72)
Burnley 0 Att: 60,012

Chelsea 2 (Oscar 32, Hazard pen 75)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 62) Att: 41,486

Everton 0
Swansea 0 Att: 39,149

Hull 0
Southampton 1 (Wanyama 3) Att: 22,828

Leicester 0
West Bromwich 1 (Cambiasso og 47) Att: 31,819

Newcastle 1 (Perez 73)
Liverpool 0 Att: 52,166

Stoke 2 (Moses 33, Diouf 56)
West Ham 2 (Valencia 60, Downing 73) Att: 27,174

Nov 2 **Aston Villa 1** (Weimann 16)
Tottenham 2 (Chadli 84, Kane 90) Att: 32,049

Manchester City 1 (Aguero 63)
Manchester United 0 Att: 45,358

Nov 3 **Crystal Palace 1** (Brown og 55)
Sunderland 3 (Fletcher 31, 90+5, Jordi Gomez 79) Att: 23,212

Nov 8 **Burnley 1** (Barnes 50)
Hull 0 Att: 16,998

Liverpool 1 (Can 9)
Chelsea 2 (Cahill 14, Diego Costa 67) Att: 44,698

Manchester United 1 (Mata 67)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 75,325

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Austin 21, Demichelis og 76)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero 32, 83) Att: 18,005

Southampton 2 (Long 75, 80)
Leicester 0 Att: 31,297

West Ham 0
Aston Villa 0 Att: 34,857

Nov 9 **Sunderland 1** (Larsson 67)
Everton 1 (Baines pen 76) Att: 43,476

Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson 75, Gomis 78)
Arsenal 1 (Sanchez 63) Att: 20,812

Tottenham 1 (Chadli 77)
Stoke 2 (Bojan 6, Walters 33) Att: 35,699

Floored...Leicester's Esteban Cambiasso

West Bromwich 0
Newcastle 2 (Perez 45, Coloccini 62) Att: 26,476

Nov 22 **Arsenal 1** (Giroud 90+5)
Manchester United 2 (Gibbs og 56, Rooney 85) Att: 60,074

Chelsea 2 (Diego Costa 11, Hazard 25)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 41,600

Everton 2 (Lukaku 26, Osman 73)
West Ham 1 (Zarate 56) Att: 39,182

Leicester 0
Sunderland 0 Att: 31,825

Manchester City 2 (Jovetic 19, Toure 62)
Swansea 1 (Bony 9) Att: 45,448

Newcastle 1 (Sissoko 78)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 51,915

Stoke 1 (Walters 32)
Burnley 2 (Ings 12, 13) Att: 27,018

Nov 23 **Crystal Palace 3** (Gayle 17, Ledley 78, Jedinak 81)
Liverpool 1 (Lambert 2) Att: 24,862

Hull 1 (Livermore 8)
Tottenham 2 (Kane 61, Eriksen 90) Att: 23,561

Nov 24 **Aston Villa 1** (Agbonlahor 29)
Southampton 1 (Clyne 81) Att: 25,311

Nov 29 **Burnley 1** (Ings pen 87)
Aston Villa 1 (Cole 38) Att: 19,910

Liverpool 1 (Johnson 85)
Stoke 0 Att: 44,735

Manchester United 3 (Smalling 16, Rooney 42, Van Persie 66)
Hull 0 Att: 75,345

Queens Park Rangers 3 (Morgan og 37, Fer 45, Austin 73)
Leicester 2 (Cambiasso 4, Schlupp 67) Att: 18,054

Sunderland 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 45,232

Swansea 1 (Bony 15)
Crystal Palace 1 (Jedinak pen 25) Att: 20,240

West Bromwich 0
Arsenal 1 (Welbeck 60) Att: 24,228

West Ham 1 (Cresswell 56)
Newcastle 0 Att: 34,977

Nov 30 **Southampton 0**
Manchester City 3 (Toure 51, Lampard 80, Clichy 88) Att: 30,919

Tottenham 2 (Eriksen 21, Soldado 45+1)
Everton 1 (Mirallas 15) Att: 35,901

Dec 2 **Burnley 1** (Boyd 34)
Newcastle 1 (Cisse 48) Att: 18,791

Crystal Palace 0
Aston Villa 1 (Benteke 32) Att: 23,935

Leicester 1 (Mignolet og 22)
Liverpool 3 (Lallana 26, Gerrard 54, Henderson 83) Att: 32,000

Manchester United 2 (Fellaini 21, Mata 59)
Stoke 1 (N'Zonzi 39) Att: 75,388

Swansea 2 (Ki 78, Routledge 83)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 20,145

West Bromwich 1 (Dawson 10)
West Ham 2 (Nolan 35, Tomkins 45+3) Att: 23,975

Dec 3 **Arsenal 1** (Sanchez 89)
Southampton 0 Att: 60,025

Chelsea 3 (Hazard 19, Drogba 22, Remy 73)
Tottenham 0 Att: 41,518

Everton 1 (Lukaku 34)
Hull 1 (Aluko 59) Att: 34,645

Sunderland 1 (Wickham 19)
Manchester City 4 (Aguero 21, 71, Jovetic 39, Zabaleta 55) Att: 41,152

Dec 6 **Hull 0**
West Bromwich 0 Att: 23,279

Liverpool 0
Sunderland 0 Att: 44,716

Manchester City 1 (Toure pen 24)
Everton 0 Att: 45,603

Newcastle 2 (Cisse 57, 78)
Chelsea 1 (Drogba 83) Att: 52,019

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Fer 51, Austin 74)
Burnley 0 Att: 17,785

Stoke 3 (Crouch 1, Bojan 35, Walters 45)
Arsenal 2 (Cazorla pen 68, Ramsey 70) Att: 27,367

Tottenham 0
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 35,860

Dec 7 **Aston Villa 2** (Clark 17, Hutton 71)
Leicester 1 (Ulloa 13) Att: 27,692

West Ham 3 (Carroll 41, 66, Sakho 87)
Swansea 1 (Bony 19) Att: 34,125

Dec 8 **Southampton 1** (Pelle 31)
Manchester United 2 (Van Persie 12, 71) Att: 31,420

Dec 13 **Arsenal 4** (Giroud 15, 58, Cazorla 54, pen 88)
Newcastle 1 (Perez 63) Att: 59,949

Burnley 1 (Barnes 73)
Southampton 0 Att: 17,287

Chelsea 2 (Hazard 7, Diego Costa 68)
Hull 0 Att: 41,626

Manchester City 3 (Silva 49, 61, Toure 81)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 45,302

Queens Park Rangers 3 (Austin pen 24, 48, 86)
West Bromwich 2 (Lescott 10, Varela 20) Att: 17,560

Southampton 3 (Lukaku og 38, Pelle 65, Yoshida 82)
Everton 0 Att: 31,475

Tottenham 2 (Kane 21, Lamela 35)
Burnley 1 (Barnes 27) Att: 35,681

West Ham 2 (Carroll 24, Downing 56)
Leicester 0 Att: 34,977

Dec 21 **Liverpool 2** (Coutinho 45, Skrtel 90+7)
Arsenal 2 (Debuchy 45+2, Giroud 64) Att: 44,703

Newcastle 0
Sunderland 1 (Johnson 90) Att: 52,315

Dec 22 **Stoke 0**
Chelsea 2 (Terry 2, Fabregas 78) Att: 27,550

Dec 26 **Arsenal 2** (Sanchez 37, Rosicky 65)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin pen 79) Att: 59,947

Burnley 0
Liverpool 1 (Sterling 62) Att: 21,335

Chelsea 2 (Terry 31, Diego Costa 62)
West Ham 0 Att: 41,589

Crystal Palace 1 (Dann 86)
Southampton 3 (Mane 17, Bertrand 48, Alderweireld 53) Att: 24,565

Everton 0
Stoke 1 (Bojan pen 38) Att: 39,166

Heated... West Ham's Andy Carroll and Branislav Ivanovic of Chelsea

Crystal Palace 1 (McArthur 11)
Stoke 1 (Crouch 13) Att: 23,038

Leicester 0
Manchester City 1 (Lampard 40) Att: 31,643

Sunderland 1 (Jordi Gomez pen 22)
West Ham 1 (Downing 29) Att: 41,694

West Bromwich 1 (Gardner 72)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 24,684

Dec 14 **Manchester United 3** (Rooney 12, Mata 40, Van Persie 71)
Liverpool 0 Att: 75,331

Swansea 1 (Bony 48)
Tottenham 2 (Kane 4, Eriksen 89) Att: 20,650

Dec 15 **Everton 3** (Barkley 33, Mirallas 43, Naismith 53)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Zamora 80) Att: 34,035

Dec 20 **Aston Villa 1** (Benteke 18)
Manchester United 1 (Falcao 53) Att: 41,273

Hull 0
Swansea 1 (Ki 15) Att: 21,913

Leicester 1 (Ulloa 48)
Tottenham 2 (Kane 1, Eriksen 71) Att: 31,870

Manchester United 3 (Rooney 23, 36, Van Persie 53)
Newcastle 1 (Cisse pen 87) Att: 75,318

Sunderland 1 (Johnson 1)
Hull 3 (Ramirez 32, Chester 51, Jelavic 90+6) Att: 44,817

Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 13)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 20,683

West Bromwich 1 (Ideye 87)
Manchester City 3 (Fernando 8, Toure pen 13, Silva 34) Att: 26,040

Dec 28 **Aston Villa 0**
Sunderland 0 Att: 35,436

Hull 0
Leicester 1 (Mahrez 32) Att: 23,809

Manchester City 2 (Silva 23, Fernandinho 33)
Burnley 2 (Boyd 47, Barnes 81) Att: 45,608

Newcastle 3 (Cisse 34, Perez 51, Colback 68)
Everton 2 (Kone 5, Mirallas 84) Att: 52,313

Queens Park Rangers 0
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 18,011

Southampton 1 (Mane 17)
Chelsea 1 (Hazard 45+1) Att: 31,641

Stoke 2 (Diouf 51, 66)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 27,070

Tottenham 0
Manchester United 0 Att: 35,711

West Ham 1 (Kouyate 54)
Arsenal 2 (Cazorla pen 41, Welbeck 44) Att: 34,977

Dec 29 **Liverpool 4** (Moreno 33, Lallana 51, 61, Shelvey og 69)
Swansea 1 (Sigurdsson 52) Att: 44,714

Jan 1, 2015 **Aston Villa 0**
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 29,047

Hull 2 (Elmohamady 33, Jelavic 43)
Everton 0 Att: 23,865

Liverpool 2 (Gerrard pen 17, pen 40)
Leicester 2 (Nugent 58, Schlupp 60) Att: 44,720

Manchester City 3 (Toure 57, Jovetic 66, Lampard 73)
Sunderland 2 (Rodwell 68, Johnson pen 71) Att: 45,367

Newcastle 3 (S Taylor 15, Colback 26, Sissoko 78)
Burnley 3 (Dummett og 19, Ings 66, Boyd 86) Att: 51,761

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Fer 20)
Swansea 1 (Bony 90+2) Att: 17,729

Southampton 2 (Mane 34, Tadic 56)
Arsenal 0 Att: 31,492

Stoke 1 (Shawcross 2)
Manchester United 1 (Falcao 26) Att: 27,203

Tottenham 5 (Kane 30, 52, Rose 44, Townsend pen 45+4, Chadli 78)
Chelsea 3 (Diego Costa 18, Hazard 61, Terry 87) Att: 35,903

West Ham 1 (Sakho 10)
West Bromwich 1 (Berahino 42) Att: 34,914

Jan 10 **Burnley 2** (Arfield 12, Ings 37)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin pen 33) Att: 17,523

Chelsea 2 (Oscar 43, Diego Costa 59)
Newcastle 0 Att: 41,612

Crystal Palace 2 (Gayle pen 69, Puncheon 80)
Tottenham 1 (Kane 49) Att: 24,193

Everton 1 (Naismith 78)
Manchester City 1 (Fernandinho 74) Att: 39,499

Leicester 1 (Konchesky 45+1)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 31,728

Sunderland 0
Liverpool 1 (Markovic 8) Att: 45,369

Swansea 1 (Noble og 74)
West Ham 1 (Carroll 43) Att: 20,745

West Bromwich 1 (Berahino 78)
Hull 0 Att: 24,818

Jan 11 **Arsenal 3** (Koscielny 6, Sanchez 33, 49)
Stoke 0 Att: 59,956

Manchester United 0
Southampton 1 (Tadic 69) Att: 75,395

Jan 17 **Aston Villa 0**
Liverpool 2 (Borini 24, Lambert 79) Att: 39,758

Burnley 2 (Mee 12, Ings 16)
Crystal Palace 3 (Gayle 28, 87, Puncheon 48) Att: 17,782

Leicester 0
Stoke 1 (Bojan 63) Att: 31,772

Newcastle 1 (Gouffran 29)
Southampton 2 (Elia 14, 62) Att: 49,307

Queens Park Rangers 0
Manchester United 2 (Fellaini 58, Wilson 90+4) Att: 18,098

Grim... a home defeat by Crystal Palace in January kept Michael Keane (left) and Burnley deep in relegation trouble

Swansea 0
Chelsea 5 (Oscar 1, 36, Diego Costa 20, 34, Schurrle 79) Att: 20,785

Tottenham 2 (O'Shea og 3, Eriksen 88)
Sunderland 1 (Larsson 31) Att: 35,973

Jan 18 **Manchester City 0**
Arsenal 2 (Cazorla pen 24, Giroud 67) Att: 45,596

West Ham 3 (Carroll 49, Amalfitano 69, Downing 72)
Hull 0 Att: 34,914

Jan 19 **Everton 0**
West Bromwich 0 Att: 34,739

Jan 31 **KEY GAME**
Chelsea 1 (Remy 41)
Manchester City 1 (Silva 45) Att: 41,620
A disappointing stalemate, but a draw sees the leaders Chelsea maintain their lead over their closest challengers.

Crystal Palace 0
Everton 1 (Lukaku 2) Att: 25,197

Hull 0
Newcastle 3 (Cabella 40, Ameobi 50, Gouffran 78) Att: 23,925

Liverpool 2 (Sterling 51, Sturridge 80)
West Ham 0 Att: 44,718

Manchester United 3 (Van Persie 27, Falcao 32, Morgan og 44)
Leicester 1 (Wasilewski 80) Att: 75,329

Stoke 3 (Walters 21, 34, 90+2)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Kranjcar 36) Att: 27,512

Sunderland 2 (Wickham 20, Defoe 34)
Burnley 0 Att: 44,022

West Bromwich 0
Tottenham 3 (Eriksen 6, Kane 15, pen 64) Att: 25,079

Feb 1 **Arsenal 5** (Giroud 8, Ozil 56, Walcott 63, Cazorla pen 75, Bellerin 90+2)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 59,958

Southampton 0
Swansea 1 (Shelvey 83) Att: 30,943

Feb 7 **Aston Villa 1** (Okore 48)
Chelsea 2 (Hazard 8, Ivanovic 66) Att: 35,969

Everton 0
Liverpool 0 Att: 39,621

Leicester 0
Crystal Palace 1 (Ledley 55) Att: 31,695

Manchester City 1 (Milner 90+2)
Hull 1 (Meyler 35) Att: 45,233

Queens Park Rangers 0
Southampton 1 (Mane 90+3) Att: 18,082

Swansea 1 (Ki 66)
Sunderland 1 (Defoe 42) Att: 20,355

Tottenham 2 (Kane 56, 86)
Arsenal 1 (Ozil 11) Att: 35,659

Feb 8 **Burnley 2** (Barnes 11, Ings 32)
West Bromwich 2 (Brunt 45+1, Ideye 67) Att: 16,904

Newcastle 1 (Colback 74)
Stoke 1 (Crouch 90) Att: 47,763

West Ham 1 (Kouyate 49)
Manchester United 1 (Blind 90+2) Att: 34,499

Feb 10 **Arsenal 2** (Koscielny 27, Walcott 41)
Leicester 1 (Kramaric 61) Att: 60,032

Hull 2 (Jelavic 22, N'Doye 74)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 21,467

Liverpool 3 (Markovic 15, Gerrard pen 53, Balotelli 83)
Tottenham 2 (Kane 26, Dembele 61) Att: 44,577

Sunderland 0
Queens Park Rangers 2 (Fer 17, Zamora 45+1) Att: 39,077

Feb 11 **Chelsea 1** (Willian 89)
Everton 0 Att: 41,592

Crystal Palace 1 (Campbell 71)
Newcastle 1 (Cisse 42) Att: 25,118

Manchester United 3 (Smalling 6, 45+3, Van Persie pen 82)
Burnley 1 (Ings 12) Att: 75,356

Southampton 0
West Ham 0 Att: 31,241

Stoke 1 (Crouch 38)
Manchester City 4 (Aguero 33, pen 70, Milner 55, Nasri 76) Att: 27,011

West Bromwich 2 (Ideye 60, Berahino 74)
Swansea 0 Att: 23,516

Feb 21 **Aston Villa 1** (Sinclair 20)
Stoke 2 (Diouf 45, Moses pen 90+3) Att: 31,880

Chelsea 1 (Ivanovic 14)
Burnley 1 (Mee 81) Att: 41,629

Crystal Palace 1 (Murray 90+4)
Arsenal 2 (Cazorla pen 8, Giroud 45+1) Att: 24,721

Hull 2 (Jelavic 16, N'Doye 89)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 39) Att: 24,466

Manchester City 5 (Aguero pen 2, Nasri 12, Dzeko 21, Silva 51, 53)
Newcastle 0 Att: 45,602

Sunderland 0
West Bromwich 0 Att: 40,943

Swansea 2 (Ki 30, Gomis 73)
Manchester United 1 (Ander Herrera 28) Att: 20,809

Feb 22 **Everton 2** (Naismith 57, Upson og 88)
Leicester 2 (Nugent 63, Cambiasso 70) Att: 38,904

Southampton 0
Liverpool 2 (Coutinho 3, Sterling 73) Att: 31,723

Tottenham 2 (Rose 81, Kane 90+6)
West Ham 2 (Kouyate 22, Sakho 62) Att: 35,837

Feb 28 **Burnley 0**
Swansea 1 (Heaton og 64) Att: 17,388

Manchester United 2 (Rooney pen 66, 84)
Sunderland 0 Att: 75,344

Newcastle 1 (Cisse 37)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 51,573

Stoke 1 (Crouch 71)
Hull 0 Att: 26,473

West Bromwich 1 (Berahino 2)
Southampton 0 Att: 25,303

West Ham 1 (Valencia 76)
Crystal Palace 3 (Murray 41, 63, Dann 51) Att: 34,857

Mar 1 **Arsenal 2** (Giroud 39, Rosicky 89)
Everton 0 Att: 59,925

Liverpool 2 (Henderson 11, Coutinho 75)
Manchester City 1 (Dzeko 25) Att: 44,590

Mar 3 **Aston Villa 2** (Agbonlahor 22, Benteke pen 90+4)
West Bromwich 1 (Berahino 66) Att: 31,272

Hull 1 (N'Doye 15)
Sunderland 1 (Rodwell 77) Att: 23,017

Southampton 1 (Mane 83)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 28,351

Mar 4 **Liverpool 2** (Henderson 29, Sturridge 51)
Burnley 0 Att: 44,717

Manchester City 2 (Silva 45+2, Milner 88)
Leicester 0 Att: 45,000

Newcastle 0
Manchester United 1 (Young 89) Att: 49,801

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 82)
Arsenal 2 (Giroud 64, Sanchez 69) Att: 17,977

Stoke 2 (Moses 32, Diouf 84)
Everton 0 Att: 26,431

Tottenham 3 (Chadli 7, Mason 51, Townsend 60)
Swansea 2 (Ki 19, Sigurdsson 89) Att: 34,008

West Ham 0
Chelsea 1 (Hazard 22) Att: 34,927

Mar 7 **Queens Park Rangers 1** (Sandro 75)
Tottenham 2 (Kane 34, 68) Att: 17,992

Mar 14 **Arsenal 3** (Giroud 45+1, Ramsey 81, Flamini 84)
West Ham 0 Att: 60,002

Burnley 1 (Boyd 61)
Manchester City 0 Att: 21,216

Crystal Palace 3 (Zaha 21, McArthur 40, Ward 42)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Phillips 83) Att: 24,886

Leicester 0
Hull 0 Att: 31,456

Sunderland 0
Aston Villa 4 (Benteke 16, 44, Agbonlahor 18, 37) Att: 45,746

West Bromwich 1 (Ideye 19)
Stoke 0 Att: 24,323

Mar 15 **Chelsea 1** (Diego Costa 11)
Southampton 1 (Tadic pen 19) Att: 41,624

Everton 3 (McCarthy 20, Lukaku pen 56, Barkley 90+3)
Newcastle 0 Att: 38,806

Bragging rights...Harry Kane's second goal of the match enables Tottenham to beat Arsenal in the north London derby

Manchester United 3 (Fellaini 9, Carrick 19, Rooney 34)
Tottenham 0 Att: 75,112

Mar 16 Swansea 0
Liverpool 1 (Henderson 68) Att: 20,828

Mar 21 Aston Villa 0
Swansea 1 (Gomis 87) Att: 35,598

Manchester City 3 (Bony 27, Fernando 40, Silva 77)
West Bromwich 0 Att: 45,018

Newcastle 1 (Sissoko 48)
Arsenal 2 (Giroud 24, 28) Att: 50,544

Southampton 2 (Long 37, Shackell og 58)
Burnley 0 Att: 30,864

Stoke 1 (Diouf 14)
Crystal Palace 2 (Murray pen 41, Zaha 45+2) Att: 27,532

Tottenham 4 (Kane 6, 13, pen 64, Schlupp og 85)
Leicester 3 (Vardy 38, Morgan 50, Nugent 90) Att: 35,950

West Ham 1 (Sakho 88)
Sunderland 0 Att: 34,914

Mar 22 Hull 2 (Elmohamady 26, Hernandez 28)
Chelsea 3 (Hazard 2, Diego Costa 9, Remy 77) Att: 24,598

KEY GAME
Liverpool 1 (Sturridge 69)
Manchester United 2 (Mata 14, 59) Att: 44,405
Steven Gerrard was sent off 38 seconds after appearing as a substitute as Liverpool blew their chance of a top-four finish.

Queens Park Rangers 1 (Vargas 65)
Everton 2 (Coleman 18, Lennon 77) Att: 17,706

Apr 4 Arsenal 4 (Bellerin 37, Ozil 40, Sanchez 45, Giroud 90+1)
Liverpool 1 (Henderson pen 76) Att: 60,081

Chelsea 2 (Hazard pen 39, Remy 62)
Stoke 1 (Adam 44) Att: 41,098

Everton 1 (Jagielka 16)
Southampton 0 Att: 39,390

Lift off...Sunderland's Connor Wickham

Leicester 2 (Cambiasso 12, King 86)
West Ham 1 (Kouyate 32) Att: 31,863

Manchester United 3 (Ander Herrera 43, 90+2, Rooney 79)
Aston Villa 1 (Benteke 80) Att: 75,397

Swansea 3 (Ki 18, Gomis 37, 90+1)
Hull 1 (McShane 50) Att: 20,333

West Bromwich 1 (Anichebe 58)
Queens Park Rangers 4 (Vargas 15, Austin 37, Zamora 43, Barton 90+5) Att: 25,735

Apr 5 Burnley 0
Tottenham 0 Att: 18,829

Sunderland 1 (Defoe 45+1)
Newcastle 0 Att: 47,563

Apr 6 Crystal Palace 2 (Murray 34, Puncheon 48)
Manchester City 1 (Toure 78) Att: 24,718

Apr 7 Aston Villa 3 (Benteke 10, 33, 83)
Queens Park Rangers 3 (Phillips 7, Hill 55, Austin 78) Att: 33,708

Apr 11 Burnley 0
Arsenal 1 (Ramsey 12) Att: 20,615

Southampton 2 (Ward-Prowse pen 56, Pelle 81)
Hull 0 Att: 30,359

Sunderland 1 (Wickham 90)
Crystal Palace 4 (Murray 48, Bolasie 51, 53, 62) Att: 42,073

Close...Manchester City's Sergio Aguero

Swansea 1 (Shelvey pen 69)
Everton 1 (Lennon 41) Att: 20,468

Tottenham 0
Aston Villa 1 (Benteke 35) Att: 35,687

West Bromwich 2 (Fletcher 8, Gardner 26)
Leicester 3 (Nugent 20, Huth 80, Vardy 90+1) Att: 26,768

West Ham 1 (Cresswell 7)
Stoke 1 (Arnautovic 90+5) Att: 34,946

Apr 12 Manchester United 4 (Young 14, Fellaini 27, Mata 67, Smalling 73)
Manchester City 2 (Aguero 8, 89) Att: 75,313

Queens Park Rangers 0
Chelsea 1 (Fabregas 88) Att: 17,939

Apr 13 Liverpool 2 (Sterling 9, Allen 70)
Newcastle 0 Att: 44,611

Apr 18 Chelsea 1 (Hazard 38)
Manchester United 0 Att: 41,422

Crystal Palace 0
West Bromwich 2 (Morrison 2, Gardner 53) Att: 24,765

Everton 1 (Mirallas 29)
Burnley 0 Att: 39,496

Leicester 2 (Ulloa 15, King 89)
Swansea 0 Att: 31,121

Stoke 2 (Diouf 47, Adam 84)
Southampton 1 (Schneiderlin 22) Att: 26,467

Apr 19 Manchester City 2 (Collins og 18, Aguero 36)
West Ham 0 Att: 45,041

Newcastle 1 (Colback 46)
Tottenham 3 (Chadli 30, Eriksen 53, Kane 90+1) Att: 47,427

Apr 25 Burnley 0
Leicester 1 (Vardy 60) Att: 19,582

Crystal Palace 0
Hull 2 (N'Doye 51, 90+2) Att: 23,876

Manchester City 3 (Aguero 3, Kolarov 66, Fernandinho 89)
Aston Villa 2 (Cleverley 68, Sanchez 85) Att: 45,036

Newcastle 2 (Perez 20, De Jong 87)
Swansea 3 (Nelson Oliveira 45+2, Sigurdsson 49, Cork 71) Att: 46,884

Queens Park Rangers 0
West Ham 0 Att: 18,036

Southampton 2 (Pelle 29, 65)
Tottenham 2 (Lamela 43, Chadli 70) Att: 31,622

Stoke 1 (Adam 27)
Sunderland 1 (Wickham 1) Att: 26,706

West Bromwich 0
Liverpool 0 Att: 26,663

Apr 26 Arsenal 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 60,066

Everton 3 (McCarthy 5, Stones 35, Mirallas 74)
Manchester United 0 Att: 39,497

Apr 28 Hull 1 (Dawson 37)
Liverpool 0 Att: 24,843

Apr 29 Leicester 1 (Albrighton 45+3)
Chelsea 3 (Drogba 48, Terry 79, Ramires 83) Att: 32,021

May 2 Aston Villa 3 (Benteke 10, 45, Cleverley 64)
Everton 2 (Lukaku pen 59, Jagielka 90+2) Att: 37,859

Leicester 3 (Ulloa 1, pen 48, Morgan 17)
Newcastle 0 Att: 31,576

Liverpool 2 (Coutinho 19, Gerrard 87)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Fer 73) Att: 44,707

Manchester United 0
West Bromwich 1 (Olsson 63) Att: 75,454

Sunderland 2 (Jordi Gomez pen 21, pen 55)
Southampton 1 (Mane 22) Att: 39,613

Swansea 2 (Montero 76, Ki 90+2)
Stoke 0 Att: 20,661

West Ham 1 (Noble pen 24)
Burnley 0 Att: 34,946

May 3 Chelsea 1 (Hazard 45)
Crystal Palace 0 Att: 41,566

Tottenham 0
Manchester City 1 (Aguero 29) Att: 35,784

May 4 Hull 1 (Quinn 56)
Arsenal 3 (Sanchez 28, 45+1, Ramsey 33) Att: 23,628

May 9 Aston Villa 1 (Cleverley 31)
West Ham 0 Att: 39,294

Crystal Palace 1 (Puncheon 57)
Manchester United 2 (Mata pen 19, Fellaini 78) Att: 25,009

Everton 0
Sunderland 2 (Graham 53, Defoe 85) Att: 38,246

Hull 0
Burnley 1 (Ings 62) Att: 24,877

Leicester 2 (Mahrez 7, 19)
Southampton 0 Att: 31,939

Newcastle 1 (Perez 41)
West Bromwich 1 (Anichebe 32) Att: 47,894

Stoke 3 (Adam 21, N'Zonzi 32, Diouf 86)
Tottenham 0 Att: 27,104

May 10 Chelsea 1 (Terry 5)
Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 44) Att: 41,547

Manchester City 6 (Aguero 4, 50, pen 65, Kolarov 32, Milner 70, Silva 87)
Queens Park Rangers 0 Att: 44,564

May 11 Arsenal 0
Swansea 1 (Gomis 85) Att: 59,989

May 16 Burnley 0
Stoke 0 Att: 18,636

Liverpool 1 (Lallana 26)
Crystal Palace 3 (Puncheon 43, Zaha 60, Murray 90+1) Att: 44,673

Queens Park Rangers 2 (Phillips 54, Fer 61)
Newcastle 1 (Riviere 24) Att: 17,608

Southampton 6 (Mane 13, 14, 16, Long 26, 38, Pelle 81)
Aston Villa 1 (Benteke 45+3) Att: 31,636

Sunderland 0
Leicester 0 Att: 46,705

Tottenham 2 (Chadli 54, Rose 61)
Hull 0 Att: 35,857

West Ham 1 (Downing 62)
Everton 2 (Osman 68, Lukaku 90+3) Att: 34,977

May 17 Manchester United 1 (Ander Herrera 30)
Arsenal 1 (Blackett og 82) Att: 75,323

Swansea 2 (Sigurdsson 45, Gomis 64)
Manchester City 4 (Toure 21, 74, Milner 36, Bony 90+2) Att: 20,669

May 18 West Bromwich 3 (Berahino 9, pen 47, Brunt 60)
Chelsea 0 Att: 24,750

May 20 Arsenal 0
Sunderland 0 Att: 59,987

May 24 Arsenal 4 (Walcott 4, 14, 37, Wilshere 17)
West Bromwich 1 (McAuley 57) Att: 59,971

Aston Villa 0
Burnley 1 (Ings 6) Att: 40,792

Chelsea 3 (Diego Costa pen 37, Remy 70, 88)
Sunderland 1 (Fletcher 26) Att: 41,620

Crystal Palace 1 (Chamakh 57)
Swansea 0 Att: 25,076

Everton 0
Tottenham 1 (Kane 24) Att: 39,365

Hull 0
Manchester United 0 Att: 24,745

Leicester 5 (Vardy 16, Albrighton 43, Ulloa 51, Cambiasso 52, Kramaric 86)
Queens Park Rangers 1 (Austin 57) Att: 31,467

Manchester City 2 (Lampard 31, Aguero 88)
Southampton 0 Att: 45,919

KEY GAME
Newcastle 2 (Sissoko 54, Gutierrez 85)
West Ham 0 Att: 52,094
Last-day drama as Newcastle, threatened by relegation after a run of 10 games without a win, survive the drop.

Stoke 6 (Diouf 22, 26, Walters 30, Adam 41, N'Zonzi 45, Crouch 86)
Liverpool 1 (Gerrard 70) Att: 27,602

HOWARD JOHNSON

PSG juggernaut running out of competition

How do you solve a problem like Paris? No, this isn't one of those churlish, Michel Platini-inspired rants about the evils of Arab money ruining football.

Let's face it, anyone who saw Paris Saint-Germain play before the Qatari money arrived would have known they were already making a very tidy job of ruining football without anyone else's interference. They were hopeless. But all the same, when one team is now so ludicrously superior to any other, questions have to be asked about where domestic football is heading in France.

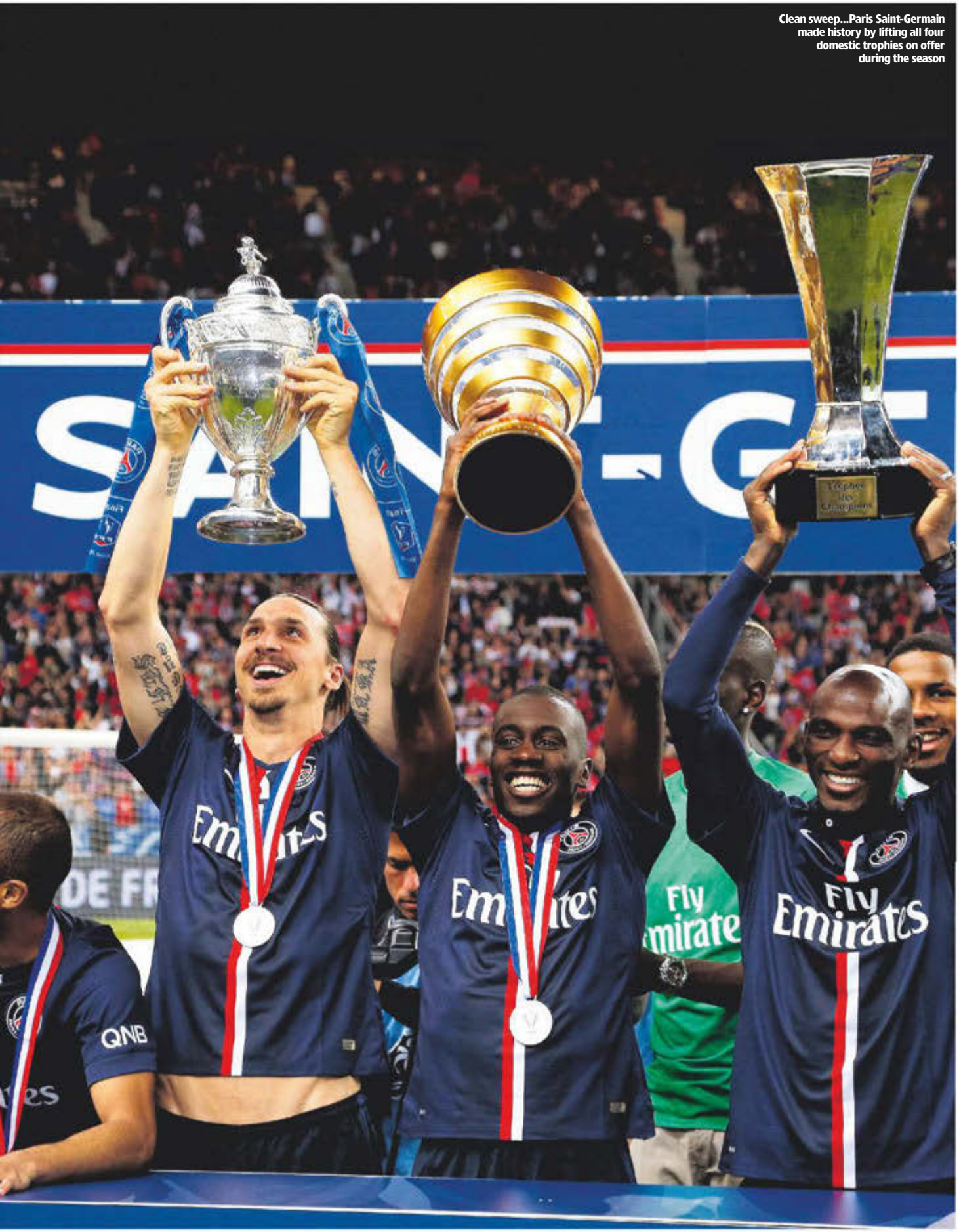
Under coach Laurent Blanc, PSG won not only the treble, but a never-before-done quadruple, picking up the trail of silverware back in August last year.

As 2013-14 Ligue 1 champions, they faced French Cup winners Guingamp in the Champions Trophy, a "Charity Shield on the road" affair in Beijing, and cruised to a 2-0 win. Then they bagged the League Cup at a canter with a 4-0 demolition of Bastia in April, before collecting a third successive Ligue 1 title after finishing eight points ahead of Lyon. And to top off a remarkable domestic campaign, they landed the French Cup in May, beating second division Auxerre 1-0 in what was very much an end-of-season performance.

What is perhaps most revealing about PSG's season, however, isn't immediately apparent. The capital club were able to land the Ligue 1 title after a start to the campaign that could only be described as beyond sluggish. Three wins and an astonishing six draws in their opening nine matches saw PSG lying in third place,

> "In 15 years I have never seen such a referee. In this shit country, this country does not deserve PSG. We are too good for this country"
>
> **Zlatan Ibrahimovic lets rip after Paris Saint-Germain's 3-2 defeat at Bordeaux**

Going public...PSG coach Blanc had harsh words for his club's critics



Clean sweep...Paris Saint-Germain made history by lifting all four domestic trophies on offer during the season

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Anthony Lacazette
(Lyon)
With 27 league goals to his name, eight more than Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the Lyon powerhouse demonstrated what a lethal finisher he is. At 24 years of age he's surely one of the most coveted new stars in Europe.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Nabil Fekir
(Lyon)
He started the season as a fringe player, and ended it with 13 goals and nine assists. French boss Didier Deschamps was impressed enough to hand the 21-year-old his first senior cap, against Brazil in March.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Laurent Blanc
(PSG)
After bagging four trophies it couldn't be anyone else but Blanc. But a special mention goes to Lyon boss Hubert Fournier, who led his side to a very creditable second place finish in his first season in charge.

CUP WINNERS
It was no surprise that **Paris Saint-Germain** made it to the Final at the Stade de France. But it was a shock that they made such hard work of second division Auxerre. An Edinson Cavani header after 54 minutes proved the only goal of a fairly turgid affair.

RELEGATED
Two of last season's promoted teams, **Metz** and **Lens**, headed straight back through the Ligue 1 trap door. They were joined by **Evian**, who finished the campaign five points behind 17th-placed Toulouse.

PROMOTED
Angers, **Gazelec GFC Ajaccio** and **Troyes**.

seven points behind Marseille. Yet even with such a head start, neither OM nor anybody else was able to match the Parisians for strength, depth, ability and durability. There was never any real sense during the long campaign that it would be anyone other than PSG skipper Thiago Silva who would end up hoisting the league trophy aloft. The title was duly delivered with a game to spare thanks to a 2-1 win at Montpellier.

In his hour of glory, Blanc wasn't slow to take a dig at PSG's critics, of whom there had been many during the campaign.

"To retain the title is never easy," said Blanc after doing just that. "That we had to wait until the second-to-last match to do it tells you something. So obviously I get more pleasure out of this title than last season's.

"The critics? I've got nothing to say about them." This wasn't exactly true, as the 49-year-old immediately went on the attack. "They should be more realistic. People won't remember this, but believe you me, in the first half of the season you lot were really hard on the team and the coach. It's a good job I love this job."

Indeed it is – and by the way the PSG players celebrated their victory you'd be hard-hearted to claim they didn't love their work every bit as much. Mind you, you too would have a smile on your face if you were a member of the current squad. A recent survey revealed that the average first-team wage at the club came in at an eye-watering £5.5million, or £101,898 per week. That's 20 times as much as fellow Ligue 1 club Guingamp. Small wonder, then, that PSG inflicted a 6-0 defeat on them in May.

Challenge...Lyon's Milan Bisevac (left) clashes with Abdelaziz Barrada of Marseille, who were the early season pace-setters

Impressive...Bordeaux's new stadium

While nobody could have expected the plucky little Brittany club to provide serious competition for PSG, the worry as thoughts turn to next season is where any sort of meaningful competition is going to come from. After all, Blanc has already made it clear that next term he expects his side to go up another notch and aim higher.

When the Qataris first took over in 2011 they immediately announced that their aim was to build a European juggernaut, a footballing superpower. Well, nobody can claim to be a superpower until they've won the "Big One". PSG Chairman Nasser El Khelaifi has openly stated that "our main dream, the one we are working for every day, remains to win the Champions League". So Blanc simply has to keep his team improving.

Speaking on satellite sports channel beIN Sport, the coach was candid when he said that regenerating the group for the next campaign was a priority, with up to

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
PSG and **Lyon** enter the Champions League group stage, while third-placed **Monaco** play in the third qualifying round. **Marseille** (fourth) go into the Europa League group stage, while **Saint-Etienne** (fifth) and **Bordeaux** (sixth) will play in the third qualifying round.

Qualifiers...Saint-Etienne (in green) and Bordeaux are in next season's Europa League

TEAM OF THE SEASON

five current players being moved on.

"There are some who will leave PSG in the summer," he said. "They just don't know it yet."

With Blanc confirming that he expects to sign two attacking players, neither Edinson Cavani nor Ezequiel Lavezzi will be feeling too sure of themselves just now, while fringe players, such as Adrien Rabiot, look likely to be shown the door.

Money is clearly no object, but can a club like PSG grow to the level it truly needs to when the level of domestic competition is weak? The team lost just three league games all season: to Guingamp, Bastia and Bordeaux. All of those defeats were much more like bad days at the office than losses to teams of equal stature, and it is entirely conceivable that PSG could go through a whole season unbeaten in domestic competition.

A league isn't a league unless there's real competition and right now France doesn't seem to be coming up with anything credible to halt the PSG bandwagon. Not so long ago it seemed as if Russian roubles might allow Monaco to provide some real competition. But the sale of James Rodriguez to Real Madrid and the loan of Radamel Falcao to Manchester United suggested that a serious attempt was not really being made. And, let's face it, Monaco have very little chance of being a sustainable powerhouse when the base level of support for the team simply isn't there. Money can buy you a lot, such as a third-place Ligue 1 finish and a quarter-final slot in the Champions League, but it can't buy Monaco that big-club feel.

Elsewhere Marseille have potential, but both the club and the city's – how shall we put this? – "difficult" reputation makes it a less enticing investment proposition. Lyon? They did great things on the pitch in finishing second, but their stated policy is to keep things tight at the bank, so again, it's hard to see a serious challenge coming from them.

Elsewhere, there is little opposition. Saint-Etienne have the tradition and the fan base, but they have zero financial clout just now. Lille have aspirations to move up to bigger things, but their magnificent new stadium has yet to witness a team worthy of it.

> "We have to reinvent our game. At the moment we're not far from the floor of the swimming pool"
>
> **Lille president Michel Seydoux said French football was "ill", lacking investors, good governance and attractiveness**

Talking of new stadiums, one of the three teams to beat PSG in season 2014-15, Bordeaux, ended their campaign in a spanking new arena, inspiringly called the Nouveau Stade Bordeaux. Under coach, the former France defender Willy Sagnol, *Les Girondins* finished in a creditable sixth place, but were never a serious threat to Paris.

So what does all this mean for Ligue 1 next season? Well, it's genuinely hard to see anything but PSG followed by the rest. The Parisians have the financial firepower to blow pretty much anyone out of the water on the European stage, never mind in France. And even then, which clubs have more allure? Probably only Barcelona and Real Madrid can offer more glamour and more glory. PSG look like they have everything in place to win the Champions League sooner rather than later.

Their Achilles heel? It has to be the lack of genuine domestic competition. England has three or four clubs who will have serious ambitions of winning the title next season. Spain has arguably the two best teams in the world battling it out for supremacy. Do domestic championships that lack real cutting-edge competition hinder clubs when they step up to take on the very best that Europe has to offer? Maybe so, but the PSG top brass will take heart from looking at Germany, where Bayern Munich were runaway champions by a whopping 10 points from Wolfsburg. Yet there's little doubt that Pep Guardiola's boys are eating at Europe's top table.

Who will the Qatari megabucks lure to the French capital, especially now that it looks like those infamous UEFA Financial Fairplay rules are about to be relaxed? A number of names have been bandied about, but frankly they're the usual suspects all the top outfits currently covet.

Paul Pogba at Juventus is one obvious name and Blanc has already gone public about his admiration for the midfielder. Kevin De Bruyne from Wolfsburg is another. Angel Di Maria has also been mentioned, despite his poor campaign at Manchester United. And out-of-favour Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech, too. Perhaps of this group, only Pogba would set the hearts of the PSG faithful racing, but with all the money the club can wave about, it would be foolish not to expect some exciting new arrivals to depress the rest of Ligue 1 next season. **WS**

Close...Monaco (in red) take on Saint-Etienne

Shock...Jeremy Pied (centre) celebrates a goal as Guingamp become one of only three teams to beat PSG in the league

LIGUE 1 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG	38	24	11	3	83	36	83
LYON	38	22	9	7	72	33	75
MONACO	38	20	11	7	51	26	71
MARSEILLE	38	21	6	11	76	42	69
SAINT-ETIENNE	38	19	12	7	51	30	69
BORDEAUX	38	17	12	9	47	44	63
MONTPELLIER	38	16	8	14	46	39	56
LILLE	38	16	8	14	43	42	56
RENNES	38	13	11	14	35	42	50
GUINGAMP	38	15	4	19	41	55	49
NICE	38	13	9	16	44	53	48
BASTIA	38	12	11	15	37	46	47
CAEN	38	12	10	16	54	55	46
NANTES	38	11	12	15	29	40	45
REIMS	38	12	8	18	47	66	44
LORIENT	38	12	7	19	44	50	43
TOULOUSE	38	12	6	20	43	64	42
EVIAN	38	11	4	23	41	62	37
METZ	38	7	9	22	31	61	30
LENS	38	7	8	23	32	61	29

TOP GOALSCORERS

Alexandre Lacazette *(Lyon)*	*27 goals*
Andre-Pierre Gignac *(Marseille)*	*21 goals*
Zlatan Ibrahimovic *(PSG)*	*19 goals*
Edinson Cavani *(PSG)*	*18 goals*

Aug 8, 2014 **Reims 2** (Oniangue 22, Devaux 34)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 7, 63)
Att: 18,540

Aug 9 **Bastia 3** (Maboulou 9, 73, Tallo pen 66)
Marseille 3 (Gignac 12, pen 62, Romaric og 17)
Att: 15,537

Evian TG 0
Caen 3 (Kante 12, Duhamel 32, 37) Att: 9,915

Guingamp 0
Saint-Etienne 2 (Erdinc pen 39, 90+2) Att: 16,852

Lille 0
Metz 0 Att: 34,327

Montpellier 0
Bordeaux 1 (Diabate 17) Att: 15,190

Nantes 1 (Bammou 65)
Lens 0 Att: 27,964

Nice 3 (Cvitanich 23, 63, Bosetti 69)
Toulouse 2 (Braithwaite 44, Ben Yedder 45)
Att: 19,474

Aug 10 **Lyon 2** (Malbranque 64, Lacazette pen 74)
Rennes 0 Att: 27,811

Monaco 1 (Falcao pen 78)
Lorient 2 (Aboubakar pen 9, Lavigne 87) Att: 13,960

Aug 15 **Caen 0**
Lille 1 (Origi pen 69) Att: 12,664

Aug 16 **Lens 0**
Guingamp 1 (Douniama 90+3) Att: 9,512

Lorient 0
Nice 0 Att: 13,885

Metz 1 (Ngbakoto 12)
Nantes 1 (Veretout 3) Att: 20,329

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura 26, Cavani 57)
Bastia 0 Att: 45,258

Rennes 6 (Toivonen 7, 57, Mexer 40, 44, Ntep 76, 87)
Evian TG 2 (Wass 35, 83) Att: 17,591

Toulouse 2 (Akpa Akpro 10, Ben Yedder 45)
Lyon 1 (Lacazette 77) Att: 13,283

Home win...Bordeaux (left) beat Monaco

Aug 17 **Bordeaux 4** (Rolan 48, 65, Sala pen 61, Khazri pen 75)
Monaco 1 (Berbatov 45) Att: 28,287

Marseille 0
Montpellier 2 (Mounier 19, Sanson 69) Att: 50,774

Saint-Etienne 3 (Gradel 60, Monnet-Paquet 70, Erdinc 81)
Reims 1 (Perrin og 27) Att: 33,810

Aug 22 **Evian TG 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 0 Att: 14,600

Aug 23 **Bastia 1** (Boudebouz pen 24)
Toulouse 0 Att: 13,813

Guingamp 0
Marseille 1 (Gignac 46) Att: 16,901

Lille 2 (Delaplace 58, Kjaer 74)
Lorient 0 Att: 34,860

Montpellier 2 (Tiene 44, Camara 89)
Metz 0 Att: 12,337

Nice 1 (Bosetti 11)
Bordeaux 3 (Diabate pen 32, Maurice-Belay 47, Sertic 55) Att: 22,712

Reims 0
Caen 2 (Kante 83, Bazile 90+2) Att: 12,015

Aug 24 **Lyon 0**
Lens 1 (Nomenjanahary 11) Att: 24,636

Nantes 0
Monaco 1 (Falcao 45) Att: 27,042

Saint-Etienne 0
Rennes 0 Att: 31,037

Aug 29 **Marseille 4** (Payet 19, 48, Thauvin 45, Barrada 87)
Nice 0 Att: 41,413

Aug 30 **Caen 0**
Rennes 1 (Toivonen pen 88) Att: 12,767

Lens 4 (Cyprien 45, Chavarria 47, Touzghar pen 61, Coulibaly pen 87)
Reims 2 (Mandi 7, Courtet 80) Att: 9,846

Lorient 4 (Jeannot 58, Lavigne 80, 90+3, Ayew 83)
Guingamp 0 Att: 13,061

Monaco 1 (Berbatov 61)
Lille 1 (Roux 18) Att: 9,345

Nantes 1 (Gakpe 79)
Montpellier 0 Att: 21,559

Toulouse 1 (Regattin 78)
Evian TG 0 Att: 10,206

Aug 31 **Bordeaux 1** (Rolan 78)
Bastia 1 (Tallo 18) Att: 21,917

Metz 2 (Ngbakoto pen 82, Falcon 86)
Lyon 1 (Lacazette 68) Att: 20,168

Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Ruffier og 24, Ibrahimovic 41, 62, 72, Cavani 63)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 46,088

Sep 12 **Lyon 2** (Fekir 30, Tolisso 73)
Monaco 1 (Ocampos 39) Att: 34,099

Sep 13 **Bastia 1** (Gillet 54)
Lens 1 (Chavarria 40) Att: 12,479

Montpellier 1 (Kone og 44)
Lorient 0 Att: 12,106

Nice 1 (Bosetti 90+5)
Metz 0 Att: 18,019

Reims 2 (N'Gog 13, Courtet 86)
Toulouse 0 Att: 11,019

Rennes 1 (Ntep 56)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Camara 43) Att: 27,290

Saint-Etienne 1 (Pierre og 74)
Caen 0 Att: 26,293

Sep 14 **Evian TG 1** (Nsikulu 90+1)
Marseille 3 (Gignac 1, Imbula 44, Thauvin 63)
Att: 12,967

Guingamp 2 (Diallo 26, Mandanne pen 34)
Bordeaux 1 (Diabate 83) Att: 12,912

Lille 2 (Origi 46, Lopes 49)
Nantes 0 Att: 32,560

Sep 19 **Bordeaux 2** (Rolan 19, Khazri 56)
Evian TG 1 (Tejeda 86) Att: 15,103

Sep 20 **Lorient 0**
Reims 1 (Moukandjo 72) Att: 12,004

Marseille 3 (Gignac 50, 63, Alessandrini 90+4)
Rennes 0 Att: 46,150

Metz 3 (Krivets 14, Milan 64, Falcon 74)
Bastia 1 (Ayite 42) Att: 18,605

Nantes 2 (Amavi og 9, Shechter 43)
Nice 1 (Amavi 70) Att: 23,240

Toulouse 3 (Ben Yedder pen 21, Regattin pen 83, Ninkov 87)
Caen 3 (Raspentino 7, Nangis 76, Calve 86)
Att: 13,058

Sep 21 **Lens 0**
Saint-Etienne 1 (Lemoine 82) Att: 11,072

Lille 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 31,742

Monaco 1 (Dirar 38)
Guingamp 0 Att: 6,351

Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Cavani 20)
Lyon 1 (Umtiti 84) Att: 45,428

Sep 23 **Reims 0**
Marseille 5 (Gignac 8, 20, Ayew 52, 59, Imbula 74)
Att: 17,705

Rennes 0
Toulouse 3 (Pesic 42, Diagne og 58, Ben Yedder 62)
Att: 17,182

Sep 24 **Bastia 0**
Nantes 0 Att: 11,380

Caen 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura 18, Marquinhos 56) Att: 19,998

Evian TG 2 (Wass 10, Mensah 30)
Lens 1 (Touzghar 55) Att: 9,864

Guingamp 0
Metz 1 (Bussmann 24) Att: 12,712

Lyon 4 (Lacazette 5, Fekir 39, 68, N'Jie 50)
Lorient 0 Att: 32,523

Montpellier 0
Monaco 1 (Germain 90+3) Att: 11,570

Nice 1 (Bodmer 41)
Lille 0 Att: 16,541

Sep 25 **Saint-Etienne 1** (Van Wolfswinkel 31)
Bordeaux 1 (Tiago Ilori 39) Att: 25,510

Sep 27 **Lille 1** (Origi 39)
Bastia 0 Att: 33,558
Lorient 0
Evian TG 2 (Kone 2, Barbosa 79) Att: 11,058

Metz 3 (Falcon 51, 90+2, Kashi 71)
Reims 0 Att: 18,273

Monaco 0
Nice 1 (Carlos Eduardo 7) Att: 8,941

Montpellier 2 (Camara 49, Montano 88)
Guingamp 1 (Beauvue 83) Att: 10,282

Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 8)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Bahebeck 33) Att: 20,762

Sep 28 **Bordeaux 2** (Khazri 73, Toure 90+3)
Rennes 1 (Habibou 80) Att: 18,668

Lens 0
Caen 0 Att: 8,525

Marseille 2 (Imbula 7, Payet 28)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Brison 53) Att: 55,367

Nantes 1 (Veretout pen 73)
Lyon 1 (Kone 51) Att: 26,077

Oct 3 **Reims 1** (Odair Fortes 32)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 14,546

Oct 4 **Bastia 0**
Lorient 2 (Peybernes og 48, Sunu 62) Att: 11,542

Caen 1 (Musavu-King 84)
Marseille 2 (Romao 74, Gignac 90+3) Att: 20,501

Evian TG 3 (Doukoure og 62, Wass pen 75, Bruno 81)
Metz 0 Att: 10,937

Nice 1 (Palun 90+3)
Montpellier 1 (Hilton 72) Att: 19,634

Hero...Eduardo celebrates the first of his five goals in Nice's 7-2 win at Guingamp

Rennes 2 (Ntep 54, 84)
Lens 0 Att: 18,907

Oct 5 **Guingamp 0**
Nantes 1 (Nkoudou 33) Att: 14,744

Lyon 3 (Lacazette 39, 45, 84)
Lille 0 Att: 34,349

KEY GAME
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Lucas Moura 71)
Monaco 1 (Martial 90+2) Att: 45,308
Champions PSG draw their sixth game of the season, leaving them seven points behind Marseille in third place.

Saint-Etienne 0
Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 22) Att: 27,581

Oct 17 **Lens 1** (Coulibaly 10)
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Cabaye 28, Maxwell 34, Cavani pen 55) Att: 70,785

Oct 18 **Lille 1** (Mavuba 79)
Guingamp 2 (Beauvue 45+1, Schwartz 57) Att: 33,926

Lorient 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Lemoine 87) Att: 14,069

Metz 0
Rennes 0 Att: 18,074

Monaco 2 (Joao Moutinho pen 2, Ferreira Carrasco 71)
Evian TG 0 Att: 5,497

Nantes 1 (Audel 13)
Reims 1 (Diego 58) Att: 22,908

Nice 0
Bastia 1 (Ayite 51) Att: 18,919

Oct 19 **Bordeaux 1** (Diabate pen 22)
Caen 1 (Bazile 77) Att: 19,798

Lyon 5 (Gourcuff 36, 47, Fekir 38, Lacazette 82, Malbranque 88)
Montpellier 1 (Tiene 54) Att: 35,688

Marseille 2 (N'Koulou 20, Gignac 35)
Toulouse 0 Att: 61,846

Oct 24 **Toulouse 0**
Lens 2 (El Jadeyaoui 11, Bourigeaud 27) Att: 12,105

Oct 25 **Bastia 1** (Maboulou 21)
Monaco 3 (Germain 5, Kondogbia 78, Ferreira Carrasco 84) Att: 13,106

Caen 2 (Nangis 3, Duhamel pen 53)
Lorient 1 (Ayew pen 24) Att: 15,963

Evian TG 0
Nantes 2 (Veretout pen 42, Bammou 75) Att: 10,063

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Lucas Moura pen 45+3, pen 50, Lavezzi 81)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 46,077

Reims 1 (Moukandjo 90)
Montpellier 0 Att: 11,331

Oct 26 **KEY GAME**
Guingamp 2 (Beauvue 8, Schwartz 70)
Nice 7 (Carlos Eduardo 12, 26, 43, 50, 65, Plea 45+1, Bautheac 72) Att: 14,664
Poor Guingamp suffer the indignity of a 7-2 home defeat to Nice, whose Brazilian striker Carlos Eduardo scores five times.

KEY GAME
Lyon 1 (Gourcuff 66)
Marseille 0 Att: 38,712
League leaders Marseille's eight-game winning run comes to an end as they suffer a home defeat against Lyon.

Rennes 2 (Habibou 47, Doucoure 54)
Lille 0 Att: 17,392

Saint-Etienne 1 (Gradel 74)
Metz 0 Att: 33,991

Oct 31 **Monaco 1** (Echiejile 20)
Reims 1 (Moukandjo 80) Att: 5,488

Nov 1 **Guingamp 1** (Yatabare 32)
Bastia 0 Att: 14,293

Lille 1 (Frey 16)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Gradel 60) Att: 36,170

Lorient 1 (Guerreiro 42)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Cavani 60, Bahebeck 69) Att: 15,652

Metz 3 (Maiga 10, 50, Malouda pen 90)
Caen 2 (Calve 65, Koita 83) Att: 17,864

Montpellier 2 (Berigaud 32, Mounier 90)
Evian TG 0 Att: 8,440

Nice 1 (Puel 51)
Lyon 3 (Malbranque 64, Lacazette 80, 90+4) Att: 15,677

Nov 2 **Bordeaux 2** (Planus 52, Rolan 63)
Toulouse 1 (Pesic 68) Att: 16,618

Marseille 2 (N'Koulou 10, Thauvin 60)
Lens 1 (Guillaume 31) Att: 52,805

Nantes 1 (Armand og 21)
Rennes 1 (Pedro Henrique 4) Att: 31,893

Nov 7 **Rennes 1** (Pedro Henrique 89)
Lorient 0 Att: 18,390

Nov 8 **Bastia 2** (Tallo 21, 45+1)
Montpellier 0 Att: 11,557

Caen 1 (Duhamel 24)
Nantes 2 (Vizcarrondo 40, Veretout 60) Att: 17,900

Evian TG 1 (Wass 76)
Nice 0 Att: 7,738

Lens 1 (Touzghar pen 74)
Bordeaux 2 (Khazri 24, Diabate 41) Att: 11,037

Toulouse 3 (Sirieix 3, Ben Yedder 61, Pesic 72)
Metz 0 Att: 16,412

Nov 9 **Lyon 3** (Lacazette 8, Fekir 20, 87)
Guingamp 1 (Lopes og 45) Att: 36,461

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura 38, Cavani 85)
Marseille 0 Att: 45,961

Reims 2 (Moukandjo pen 26, Mandi 33)
Lille 0 Att: 13,004

Saint-Etienne 1 (Van Wolfswinkel 58)
Monaco 1 (Traore 17) Att: 29,403

Nov 21 **Metz 2** (Maiga pen 49, pen 53)
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Pastore 9, Bussmann og 16, Lavezzi 84) Att: 25,012

Nov 22 **Bastia 0**
Lyon 0 Att: 12,349

Guingamp 0
Rennes 1 (Ntep 37) Att: 16,501

Lorient 1 (Guerreiro 22)
Lens 0 Att: 13,204

Monaco 2 (Imorou og 5, Joao Moutinho 75)
Caen 2 (Koita 51, Kondogbia og 59) Att: 7,508

Nice 0
Reims 0 Att: 15,207

Nov 23 **Marseille 3** (Lemina 60, Gignac 85, Batshuayi 89)
Bordeaux 1 (Toure 55) Att: 54,323

Montpellier 2 (Mounier 37, Camara 87)
Toulouse 0 Att: 9,270

Nantes 0
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 32,324

Nov 28 **Marseille 2** (Thauvin 24, Fanni 39)
Nantes 0 Att: 54,103

Nov 29 **Caen 1** (Duhamel 40)
Montpellier 1 (Hilton 17) Att: 14,976

Lens 2 (El Jadeyaoui 65, Bourigeaud 79)
Metz 0 Att: 8,922

Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Ibrahimovic pen 15)
Nice 0 Att: 45,542

Reims 2 (N'Gog 10, Moukandjo 85)
Bastia 1 (Modesto 41) Att: 13,504

Determined... Lorient's Lamine Kone (left) battles with Wissam Ben Yedder of Toulouse

Rennes 2 (Abdennour og 10, Toivonen 19)
Monaco 0 Att: 17,213

Toulouse 2 (Doumbia 23, Pesic 70)
Lorient 3 (Guerreiro 55, Jeannot 57, Ayew pen 60) Att: 20,550

Nov 30 **Bordeaux 1** (Diabate 62)
Lille 0 Att: 19,361

Evian TG 2 (Wass 59, Nielsen 81)
Guingamp 0 Att: 10,665

Saint-Etienne 3 (Sall 18, Van Wolfswinkel 40, Cohade 68)
Lyon 0 Att: 36,004

Dec 2 **Lorient 1** (Ayew pen 37)
Marseille 1 (Payet 32) Att: 16,011

Monaco 2 (Berbatov pen 64, Ferreira Carrasco 90+3)
Lens 0 Att: 5,686

Nantes 1 (Veretout pen 64)
Toulouse 2 (Sylla 24, Braithwaite 85) Att: 19,669

Dec 3 **Bastia 1** (Abdallah og 35)
Evian TG 2 (Wass 65, Nsikulu 83) Att: 10,902

Guingamp 5 (Mandanne 4, 62, Giresse 21, Beauvue pen 61, 78)
Caen 1 (Yahia 17) Att: 13,423

Lille 1 (Sirigu og 42)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Cavani 29) Att: 45,771

Metz 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 17,866

Montpellier 0
Saint-Etienne 2 (Pogba 23, Baysse 43) Att: 10,425

Nice 1 (Cvitanich 83)
Rennes 2 (Ntep 12, Konradsen 49) Att: 15,033

Dec 4 **Lyon 2** (Tolisso 6, Placide og 90+1)
Reims 1 (Moukandjo 36) Att: 32,513

Dec 5 **Toulouse 0**
Monaco 2 (Berbatov 45, pen 77) Att: 9,947

Dec 6 **Bordeaux 3** (Khazri 43, Diabate 64, 66)
Lorient 2 (Jeannot 31, Le Goff 51) Att: 15,724

Caen 2 (Duhamel pen 39, Nangis 45)
Nice 3 (Amavi 32, Bautheac pen 64, Plea 74) Att: 13,487

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 34, 48)
Nantes 1 (Bedoya 8) Att: 46,161

Rennes 0
Montpellier 4 (Martin 23, Sanson 55, Barrios 60, Mounier 90+2) Att: 16,123

Saint-Etienne 1 (Van Wolfswinkel 58)
Bastia 0 Att: 28,686

Dec 7 **Evian TG 2** (Barbosa 28, 64)
Lyon 3 (Benzia 62, Lacazette 81, pen 90+4) Att: 13,064

Lens 1 (Coulibaly 90+2)
Lille 1 (Gueye 48) Att: 40,112

Marseille 3 (Gignac 43, Ayew 59, Payet 90+2)
Metz 1 (Malouda 46) Att: 45,537

Reims 2 (Charbonnier 6, Oniangue 68)
Guingamp 3 (Jacobsen 33, Mandanne 47, Beauvue 79) Att: 11,255

Dec 12 **Lyon 3** (Lacazette pen 7, 57, Benzia 62)
Caen 0 Att: 32,962

Dec 13 **Bastia 2** (Boudebouz 45+1, Cahuzac 81)
Rennes 0 Att: 11,121

Lorient 3 (Ayew 13, Guerreiro 37, Jeannot 45+1)
Metz 1 (Ngbakoto 46) Att: 11,507

Montpellier 3 (Sanson 1, Barrios 16, Mounier 63)
Lens 3 (Valdivia 18, Guillaume 35, Touzghar 80) Att: 9,784

Nantes 2 (Veretout 23, Jug og 66)
Bordeaux 1 (Hansen og 28) Att: 23,751

Reims 3 (Diego 14, 80, Mandi 78)
Evian TG 2 (Wass 57, Cambon 69) Att: 11,011

Dec 14 **KEY GAME**
Guingamp 1 (Pied 11)
Paris Saint-Germain 0 Att: 17,636

Guingamp bring to an end PSG's run of 30 league games without defeat – dating back to the spring – with a 1-0 victory.

Lille 3 (Sidibe 7, Ryan Mendes 50, Roux 77)
Toulouse 0 Att: 37,938

Monaco 1 (Bernardo Silva 67)
Marseille 0 Att: 12,648

Nice 0
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 18,493

Dec 19 **Lens 2** (Cyprien 38, Coulibaly 86)
Nice 0 Att: 8,705

Dec 20 **Caen 1** (Feret 74)
Bastia 1 (Kamano 21) Att: 14,021

Lorient 1 (Ayew 73)
Nantes 2 (Bammou 44, Audel 79) Att: 15,091

Metz 0
Monaco 1 (Ferreira Carrasco 79) Att: 18,354

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 46,157

Rennes 1 (Mexer 45)
Reims 3 (Charbonnier 65, Odair Fortes 76, De Preville 90) Att: 17,739

Toulouse 1 (Doumbia 25)
Guingamp 1 (Giresse 8) Att: 14,188

Dec 21 **Bordeaux 0**
Lyon 5 (Lacazette 39, 90, Tolisso 56, Fekir 81, Ferri 85) Att: 31,873

Marseille 2 (Roux og 32, Batshuayi 69)
Lille 1 (Gueye 61) Att: 62,408

Saint-Etienne 3 (Gradel 2, Van Wolfswinkel 20, Hamouma 65)
Evian TG 0 Att: 33,017

Jan 7, 2015 **Lille 1** (Traore 61)
Evian TG 0 Att: 32,580

Jan 9 **Montpellier 2** (Berigaud 36, Lasne 62)
Marseille 1 (Omrani 68) Att: 20,840

Jan 10 **Bastia 4** (Boudebouz pen 32, Modesto 45, Palmieri 56, 90)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Lucas Moura 10, Rabiot 20) Att: 13,028

Evian TG 1 (Thomasson 63)
Rennes 1 (Ntep 66) Att: 8,011

Guingamp 2 (Mandanne 17, Beauvue pen 76)
Lens 0 Att: 13,520

Lille 1 (Frey 20)
Caen 0 Att: 34,334

Nice 3 (Bautheac pen 29, Bosetti 60, Carlos Eduardo 67)
Lorient 1 (Jeannot 6) Att: 16,141

Reims 1 (Cohade og 90)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Mollo 44, Hamouma 48) Att: 15,013

Jan 11 **KEY GAME**
Lyon 3 (Lacazette 14, 27, Fekir 49)
Toulouse 0 Att: 35,928

Lyon take over as league leaders after their 3-0 win against Toulouse.

Monaco 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 5,579

Nantes 0
Metz 0 Att: 28,100

Jan 16 **Bordeaux 1** (Rolan pen 33)
Nice 2 (Amavi 66, Plea 90) Att: 13,953

Jan 17 **Caen 4** (Feret 4, Privat 9, Yahia 29, Koita pen 76)
Reims 1 (Charbonnier pen 27) Att: 13,193

Lens 0
Lyon 2 (Gbamin og 22, Lacazette pen 26) Att: 11,173

Head first...David Luiz gives PSG the lead in their 4-2 win over Evian

Lorient 1 (Guerreiro 59)
Lille 0 Att: 12,026

Metz 2 (Ngbakoto pen 20, Bussmann 39)
Montpellier 3 (Barrios pen 17, 53, 69) Att: 16,786

Monaco 1 (Bernardo Silva 73)
Nantes 0 Att: 5,692

Toulouse 1 (Braithwaite 77)
Bastia 1 (Ahamada og 48) Att: 10,215

Jan 18 **Marseille 2** (Lemina 84, Gignac 89)
Guingamp 1 (Beauvue pen 90+2) Att: 42,620

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (David Luiz 30, Verratti 38, Pastore 74, Cavani 89)
Evian TG 2 (Barbosa 14, Van der Wiel og 64) Att: 45,561

Rennes 0
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 17,555

Jan 23 **Nice 2** (Genevois 47, Hult 73)
Marseille 1 (Thauvin 77) Att: 25,407

Jan 24 **Bastia 0**
Bordeaux 0 Att: 11,571

Guingamp 3 (Beauvue 19, pen 76, Mandanne 69)
Lorient 2 (Jeannot pen 72, Leveque og 90+2) Att: 13,764

Lille 0
Monaco 1 (Berbatov 57) Att: 34,898

Montpellier 4 (Lasne 8, Berigaud 57, Mounier 78, Barrios 82)
Nantes 0 Att: 11,037

Jan 25 **Evian TG 1** (Thomasson 4)
Toulouse 0 Att: 8,022

Lyon 2 (Lacazette pen 31, Tolisso 83)
Metz 0 Att: 36,580

Reims 0
Lens 0 Att: 13,813

Rennes 1 (Andre 15)
Caen 4 (Privat 4, Nangis 50, Feret 85, Da Silva 89) Att: 18,091

Saint-Etienne 0
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Ibrahimovic pen 60) Att: 32,302

Jan 30 **Paris Saint-Germain 1** (Lavezzi 29)
Rennes 0 Att: 44,955

Jan 31 **Lens 1** (Kantari pen 80)
Bastia 1 (Boudebouz pen 62) Att: 7,987

Lorient 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 11,549

Marseille 1 (Gignac pen 49)
Evian TG 0 Att: 46,579

Metz 0
Nice 0 Att: 15,115

Nantes 1 (Vizcarrondo 80)
Lille 1 (Delaplace 14) Att: 19,252

Toulouse 1 (Pesic 43)
Reims 0 Att: 17,987

Feb 1 **Bordeaux 1** (Poundje 55)
Guingamp 1 (Beauvue 28) Att: 16,104

Caen 1 (Feret 41)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 19,432

Monaco 0
Lyon 0 Att: 7,161

Feb 6 **Saint-Etienne 3** (N'Guemo 18, Mollo 57, Erdinc 83)
Lens 3 (Touzghar 60, pen 69, Chavarria 77) Att: 31,974

Feb 7 **Bastia 2** (Kamano 65, Boudebouz pen 79)
Metz 0 Att: 11,399

Caen 2 (Privat 17, Feret pen 72)
Toulouse 0 Att: 13,960

Evian TG 0
Bordeaux 1 (Khazri 11) Att: 10,033

Montpellier 1 (Dabo 90+3)
Lille 2 (Roux 9, Lopes 54) Att: 10,635

Reims 1 (Moukandjo 42)
Lorient 3 (Gassama 49, Guerreiro 63, Jeannot 85) Att: 11,757

Rennes 1 (Toivonen 27)
Marseille 1 (Ocampos 60) Att: 25,325

Feb 8 **Guingamp 1** (Leveque 51)
Monaco 0 Att: 13,532

Lyon 1 (N'Jie 31)
Paris Saint-Germain 1 (Ibrahimovic pen 69) Att: 37,581

Nice 0
Nantes 0 Att: 18,062

Feb 13 **Marseille 2** (Payet 58, Ayew 69)
Reims 2 (De Preville 6, N'Gog 90) Att: 43,653

Feb 14 **Lens 0**
Evian TG 2 (Duhamel 19, 35) Att: 7,899

Lille 0
Nice 0 Att: 35,053

Nantes 0
Bastia 2 (Sio 30, Ayite 75) Att: 19,987

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 2, Lavezzi 40)
Caen 2 (Sala 89, Bazile 90+2) Att: 45,571

Toulouse 2 (Trejo 10, Pesic 84)
Rennes 1 (Toivonen 82) Att: 14,786

Feb 15 **Bordeaux 1** (Rolan 42)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 27,661

Lorient 1 (Ayew 50)
Lyon 1 (N'Jie 78) Att: 14,354

Metz 0
Guingamp 2 (Mandanne 26, Pied 39) Att: 20,252

Feb 20 **Nice 0**
Monaco 1 (Bernardo Silva 85) Att: 24,130

Feb 21 **Bastia 2** (Sio 22, Ayite 40)
Lille 1 (Ryan Mendes 17) Att: 11,621

Caen 4 (Feret pen 7, Sala 35, 75, Bazile 36)
Lens 1 (El Jadeyaoui 45) Att: 17,751

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Rabiot 27, 48, Thiago Silva 74)
Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder 51) Att: 45,628

Rennes 1 (Ntep 11)
Bordeaux 1 (Khazri pen 77) Att: 16,833

Feb 22 **Guingamp 0**
Montpellier 2 (Sanson 2, Berigaud 55) Att: 13,942

Lyon 1 (Fekir 67)
Nantes 0 Att: 36,819

Reims 0
Metz 0 Att: 12,575

Saint-Etienne 2 (Gradel pen 54, Erdinc 90+1)
Marseille 2 (Batshuayi 64, 67) Att: 35,651

Feb 27 **Marseille 2** (Ayew 45+2, Gignac 63)
Caen 3 (Seube 67, Sala 70, Benezet 87) Att: 44,614

Feb 28 **Bordeaux 1** (Kiese Thelin 18)
Reims 1 (Charbonnier 32) Att: 19,212

Lens 0
Rennes 1 (Doucoure 36) Att: 7,549

Lille 2 (Gueye 56, Lopes 60)
Lyon 1 (Tolisso 3) Att: 40,080

Lorient 2 (Bellugou 16, Bruno 85)
Bastia 0 Att: 13,619

Metz 1 (Sarr 45)
Evian TG 2 (Carrasso og 29, Sunu 73) Att: 16,286

Toulouse 1 (Akpa Akpro 88)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Gradel pen 45) Att: 14,579

Mar 1 **Monaco 0**
Paris Saint-Germain 0 Att: 12,065

Montpellier 2 (Dabo 44, Barrios 66)
Nice 1 (Bautheac pen 36) Att: 12,083

Nantes 1 (Bammou 68)
Guingamp 0 Att: 24,118

Mar 4 **Evian TG 1** (Nsikulu 26)
Lorient 0 Att: 7,643

Mar 6 **Toulouse 1** (Ben Yedder 77)
Marseille 6 (Batshuayi 2, 44, Aloe 6, Moubandje og 20, Ayew 78, Gignac 89) Att: 19,001

Mar 7 **Bastia 2** (Gillet 26, Sio 68)
Nice 1 (Carlos Eduardo 18) Att: 13,777

Caen 1 (Privat 72)
Bordeaux 2 (Rolan 69, pen 90+5) Att: 20,067

Evian TG 1 (Sougou 78)
Monaco 3 (Martial 18, Berbatov 35, Toure 60) Att: 10,905

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (David Luiz 43, Ibrahimovic pen 60, Matuidi 80, Pastore 82)
Lens 1 (Touzghar 69) Att: 46,279

Reims 3 (Bourillon 14, Mandi 17, N'Gog 61)
Nantes 1 (Bangoura 79) Att: 15,261

Rennes 1 (Ntep 19)
Metz 0 Att: 17,174

Mar 8 **Guingamp 0**
Lille 1 (Roux 52) Att: 13,639

Montpellier 1 (Barrios 6)
Lyon 5 (Lacazette pen 30, 90+4, Fekir 40, 72, Tolisso 90+1) Att: 16,431

Saint-Etienne 2 (Mollo 74, Gradel 90)
Lorient 0 Att: 30,921

Mar 13 **Monaco 3** (Martial 22, 51, Matheus Carvalho 43)
Bastia 0 Att: 5,764

Nice 1 (Bautheac 58)
Guingamp 2 (Mandanne 49, 61)
Played behind closed doors

Mar 14 **Lens 1** (Chavarria 77)
Toulouse 0 Att: 7,494

Lorient 2 (Guerreiro 43, Ayew 60)
Caen 1 (Bazile 42) Att: 12,877

Metz 2 (Lejeune 56, Ngbakoto pen 90+1)
Saint-Etienne 3 (Gradel 38, Erdinc 42, Mollo 80) Att: 16,721

Montpellier 3 (Barrios 4, 73, Sanson 90+2)
Reims 1 (Oniangue 87) Att: 11,250

Nantes 2 (Nkoudou 45, Gakpe 47)
Evian TG 1 (Nsikulu 76) Att: 22,047

Mar 15 **Bordeaux 3** (Sane 18, Khazri 70, Rolan 88)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ibrahimovic 50, pen 85) Att: 32,236

Lille 3 (Origi 38, pen 63, 72)
Rennes 0 Att: 34,727

Marseille 0
Lyon 0 Att: 62,832

Mar 20 **Paris Saint-Germain 3** (Ibrahimovic pen 4, pen 82, 90+1)
Lorient 1 (Ayew 67) Att: 45,705

Mar 21 **Bastia 0**
Guingamp 0 *Played behind closed doors*

Caen 0
Metz 0 Att: 15,810

Evian TG 1 (Nsikulu 85)
Montpellier 0 Att: 8,730

Lyon 1 (Gonalons pen 56)
Nice 2 (Carlos Eduardo 23, Eysseric pen 86) Att: 36,300

Rennes 0
Nantes 0 Att: 25,140

Eyes down...Diego of Reims shields the ball from Marseille's Brice Dja Djedje

Toulouse 2 (Ben Yedder 18, Kana Biyik 61)
Bordeaux 1 (Rolan 28) Att: 15,288

Mar 22 **Lens 0**
Marseille 4 (Batshuayi 46, 90+3, Romao 67, Ayew 72) Att: 70,122

Reims 1 (Diego 70)
Monaco 3 (Fabinho 5, Martial 14, Dirar 79) Att: 14,692

Saint-Etienne 2 (Gradel 63, 74)
Lille 0 Att: 32,185

Apr 3 **Monaco 1** (Martial 68)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Erdinc 62) Att: 8,894

Apr 4 **Guingamp 1** (Beauvue 80)
Lyon 3 (Fekir 26, Lacazette pen 39, N'Jie 61) Att: 17,381

Lille 3 (Corchia 18, Origi 47, Roux 72)
Reims 1 (De Preville 52) Att: 38,632

Lorient 0
Rennes 3 (Mexer 17, Armand 43, Doucoure 50) Att: 14,718

Metz 3 (Maiga 25, 42, 54)
Toulouse 2 (Ben Yedder 22, Doumbia 90) Att: 20,072

Montpellier 3 (Barrios pen 69, Mounier pen 72, Sanson 90+2)
Bastia 1 (Sio 35) Att: 11,349

Nice 2 (Bosetti 45+1, Eysseric 68)
Evian TG 2 (Nounkeu 18, Gomis og 78) Att: 18,518

Apr 5 **Bordeaux 2** (Mariano 80, Maurice-Belay 90+3)
Lens 1 (Chavarria 86) Att: 22,407

Marseille 2 (Gignac 30, 43)
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Matuidi 35, Marquinhos 49, Morel og 51) Att: 65,148

Nantes 1 (Bedoya 11)
Caen 2 (Sala pen 80, Lemar 90+2) Att: 25,560

Apr 7 **Monaco 0**
Montpellier 0 Att: 5,676

Apr 10 **Caen 0**
Monaco 3 (Martial 29, Bernardo Silva 64, 84) Att: 20,065

Apr 12 **Bordeaux 1** (Yambere 61)
Marseille 0 Att: 32,408

Evian TG 0
Lille 1 (Boufal pen 81) Att: 9,986

Lens 0
Lorient 0 Att: 7,468

Reims 0
Nice 1 (Benrahma 5) Att: 14,905

Rennes 1 (Toivonen 80)
Guingamp 0 Att: 27,193

Saint-Etienne 1 (Tabanou 18)
Nantes 0 Att: 37,417

Toulouse 1 (Trejo 45+2)
Montpellier 0 Att: 18,732

Apr 15 **Lyon 2** (Yattara 77, Lacazette 85)
Bastia 0 Att: 36,549

Apr 17 **Nantes 1** (Gakpe 20)
Marseille 0 Att: 36,022

Apr 18 **Bastia 1** (Sio 47)
Reims 2 (N'Gog 5, Mandi 45+1) Att: 15,461

Guingamp 1 (Beauvue 44)
Evian TG 1 (Blandi 50) Att: 13,788

Lorient 0
Toulouse 1 (Braithwaite 28) Att: 13,511

Metz 3 (Malouda 13, Sarr pen 57, Maiga 79)
Lens 1 (Madiani 89) Att: 16,875

Monaco 1 (Bernardo Silva 28)
Rennes 1 (Habibou 87) Att: 6,527

Acrobat...Saint-Etienne's Romain Hamouma

Nice 1 (Bodmer 45+1)
Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Pastore 39, 63, Cavani pen 69) Att: 25,145

Apr 19 **Lille 2** (Roux 13, Traore 90+4)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 37,605

Lyon 2 (N'Jie 24, Jallet 48)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Gradel pen 31, Hamouma 45) Att: 37,715

Montpellier 1 (Hilton 4)
Caen 0 Att: 11,308

Apr 24 **Marseille 3** (Ayew 58, Morel 67, Batshuayi 76)
Lorient 5 (Ayew 9, 84, Bellugou 14, Philippoteaux 68, Autret 86) Att: 55,180

Apr 25 **Bordeaux 1** (Khazri 83)
Metz 1 (Sassi 24) Att: 22,708

Caen 0
Guingamp 2 (Beauvue 49, Marveaux 66) Att: 18,807

Evian TG 1 (Sunu 42)
Bastia 2 (Kamano 57, 87) Att: 8,521

Paris Saint-Germain 6 (Maxwell 1, Cavani 4, pen 73, Lavezzi 28, 44, 77)
Lille 1 (Basa 59) Att: 45,001

Rennes 2 (Prcic 47, Konradsen 90)
Nice 1 (Bautheac 22) Att: 20,675

Toulouse 1 (Regattin 22)
Nantes 1 (Bedoya 88) Att: 17,274

Apr 26 **Lens 0**
Monaco 3 (Ferreira Carrasco 36, Martial 44, Bernardo Silva 72) Att: 11,228

Reims 2 (Peuget 13, Charbonnier 90+2)
Lyon 4 (Tolisso 2, Lacazette 6, N'Jie 20, Tacalfred og 90) Att: 19,270

Saint-Etienne 1 (Gradel 20)
Montpellier 0 Att: 35,221

Apr 28 **Paris Saint-Germain 3** (Verratti 25, Cavani 42, Van der Wiel 77)
Metz 1 (Maiga 53) Att: 46,337

May 1 **Metz 0**
Marseille 2 (Gignac 38, 62) Att: 23,190

May 2 **Bastia 1** (Ayite 84)
Saint-Etienne 0 Att: 14,944

Guingamp 2 (Beauvue pen 62, Mandanne 90+4)
Reims 0 Att: 14,665

Lorient 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 16,143

Lyon 2 (Grenier 21, Lacazette pen 39)
Evian TG 0 Att: 36,839

Montpellier 0
Rennes 0 Att: 12,074

Nice 1 (Carlos Eduardo 41)
Caen 1 (Benezet 15) Att: 19,009

May 3 **Lille 3** (Boufal pen 41, Sidibe 74, Origi 90+3)
Lens 1 (Chavarria 24) Att: 41,435

Monaco 4 (Bernardo Silva 9, Martial pen 45+1, Joao Moutinho 56, Germain 90+3)
Toulouse 1 (Braithwaite 26) Att: 7,006

Nantes 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Cavani 3, Matuidi 31) Att: 34,088

May 8 **Paris Saint-Germain 6** (Cavani 2, 52, 70, Ibrahimovic 18, pen 90, Maxwell 56)
Guingamp 0 Att: 46,683

May 9 **Bordeaux 2** (Rolan pen 20, 69)
Nantes 1 (Veretout pen 15) Att: 31,495

Caen 3 (Benezet 41, 44, Privat 85)
Lyon 0 Att: 19,842

Evian TG 2 (Sunu 45+3, Duhamel 48)
Reims 3 (N'Gog 40, 64, Moukandjo 86) Att: 13,740

Metz 0
Lorient 4 (Mostefa 12, Philippoteaux 34, Kone 55, Ayew 84) Att: 16,987

Rennes 0
Bastia 1 (Danic 78) Att: 20,368

Toulouse 3 (Ben Yedder 30, Trejo 81, Braithwaite 83)
Lille 2 (Roux 9, Boufal 61) Att: 19,819

May 10 **Lens 0**
Montpellier 1 (Mounier 90+1) Att: 18,000

Marseille 2 (Ayew 79, Alessandrini 87)
Monaco 1 (Joao Moutinho 1) Att: 62,471

Saint-Etienne 5 (Perrin 25, Clement 40, Erdinc 62, Gradel 84, Monnet-Paquet 88)
Nice 0 Att: 32,770

May 16 **Bastia 1** (Ayite 12)
Caen 1 (Privat 10) Att: 14,902

Evian TG 1 (Duhamel 42)
Saint-Etienne 2 (Gradel 12, pen 82) Att: 14,382

Guingamp 2 (Mandanne 5, Beauvue 49)
Toulouse 1 (Ben Yedder pen 27) Att: 17,239

Lille 0
Marseille 4 (Gignac 2, Fanni 26, Alessandrini 70, Ayew 76) Att: 44,286

Lyon 1 (Fekir 9)
Bordeaux 1 (Crivelli 3) Att: 39,961

Monaco 2 (Bernardo Silva 45, Germain 88)
Metz 0 Att: 8,627

KEY GAME

Montpellier 1 (Mounier 40)
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Matuidi 17, Lavezzi 25) Att: 27,930

PSG retain their league crown with this victory away at Montpellier.

Nantes 1 (Audel 6)
Lorient 1 (Djilobodji og 4) Att: 28,321

Nice 2 (Amavi 30, Digard 77)
Lens 1 (Touzghar 14) Att: 20,185

Reims 1 (Charbonnier pen 59)
Rennes 0 Att: 16,712

May 23 **Bordeaux 2** (Rolan 9, 39)
Montpellier 1 (Bakar 63) Att: 40,275

Caen 3 (Bazile 61, 69, Sougou og 68)
Evian TG 2 (Sorlin 88, Sougou 90+4) Att: 19,937

Lens 1 (Chavarria 4)
Nantes 0 Att: 9,123

Lorient 0
Monaco 1 (Ferreira Carrasco 20) Att: 15,844

Marseille 3 (Payet 14, Djiku og 39, Ocampos 89)
Bastia 0 Att: 59,533

Metz 1 (Palomino 83)
Lille 4 (Balmont 40, Gueye 41, Roux 44, pen 69) Att: 15,239

Paris Saint-Germain 3 (Cavani 30, 84, Rabiot 45)
Reims 2 (Mandi 54, Kyei 89) Att: 46,297

Rennes 0
Lyon 1 (N'Jie 86) Att: 26,281

Saint-Etienne 2 (Gradel 36, 49)
Guingamp 1 (Beauvue pen 61) Att: 39,147

Toulouse 2 (Ben Yedder 80, Trejo 81)
Nice 3 (Maupay 8, Bautheac 34, 53) Att: 19,830

NICK BIDWELL

No fairy tale end for Klopp as Bayern dominate again

As Bayern Munich coach extraordinaire Pep Guardiola will surely confirm, even winning a championship is sometimes not enough in the pressurised environs of the Bavarian masters.

When Bayern clinched the Bundesliga title in late April, the 25th championship in the club's history, there was much for the Spaniard to be satisfied with. His team were victorious in 24 of their 30 games up until that point and had only twice tasted defeat. Their intoxicating brew of collective harmony, fluidity, imagination, defensive rigour and utter consistency had proved far too potent for most of the league. And taking into account the 11 players they had on World Cup duty in Brazil, their energy and hunger was, at times, remarkable.

The statistics and the raft of Bundesliga records tell their own story of Bayern's hegemony. The miserly 18 goals conceded; the 22 clean sheets; the 13 consecutive games in the "Autumn Championship" without letting in a goal; the 11-point lead they had over second-place Wolfsburg at the winter break.

In seven years as a head coach, Guardiola has won 19 trophies, and in each of his two seasons at the Allianz-Arena he has scooped the domestic league spoils. But, unfair on him or not, German league titles tend to be regarded as the bare minimum in these parts. With everything going wrong for Bayern in the last month of the season – beaten on penalties by Borussia Dortmund in the semi-final of the German Cup, falling to Barcelona in the last four of the Champions League and losing three straight dead rubbers in the Bundesliga – Guardiola inevitably found himself under heavy fire.

> "People speak too much in Germany. They should have more respect for the German champions"
>
> **Pep Guardiola hits out at the barrage of anti-Bayern comment towards the end of the season**

Pressure...winning the Bundesliga was the least that was expected of Guardiola

Unfavourably compared to his predecessor Jupp Heynckes – who just happened to win the treble in his final campaign – Guardiola was mainly taken to task for overdosing on rotation and tactical tinkering. He had also had to tetchily field a myriad of other accusations: that his players lacked physical conditioning and were prone to fade late in games; that he was diluting the Bayern identity with too many Spaniards (five players plus technical staff); and that he did not get on with a number of players, notably Mario Gotze, Franck Ribery, Thomas Muller and Bastian Schweinsteiger.

While Guardiola could argue with ▸

Farewell...Klopp salutes the fans after his final Bundesliga game in charge of Dortmund

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Kevin De Bruyne
(Wolfsburg)
Moved this season from a wide position to a freewheeling central role, the Belgian creative midfielder made a huge contribution to his team's Bundesliga pre-eminence, scoring 10 goals and setting up 21.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Davie Selke
(Werder Bremen)
It says everything about the calibre of the 20-year-old striker that he looked anything but a rookie this term. Will he come to regret his recent decision to move to second division RB Leipzig?

COACH OF THE SEASON
Lucien Favre
(Borussia Monchengladbach)
Arguably the best analyst and tactician in the country, it would be no surprise to see the Swiss chessmaster take over from Guardiola if and when the Spaniard does leave Bayern.

CUP WINNERS
Dortmund had hoped to bid farewell to coach Jurgen Klopp with victory in the Final in Berlin, but it all ended in an anticlimax as they were thoroughly outclassed and outsmarted by **Wolfsburg**, whose 3-1 win was their first-ever triumph in the German Cup.

RELEGATED
Their debut in the top flight was a disaster as **Paderborn** simply did not have players with top-flight experience, while **Freiburg** were just too physically lightweight and defensively suspect.

PROMOTED
Ingolstadt and **Darmstadt**.

some justification that the fates conspired against him, that the Barca tie might have turned out differently if three of his liveliest performers – Arjen Robben, David Alaba and Ribery – had not been sidelined with injury, he certainly did bring some of the press attacks on himself. His uncompromising nature caused no little friction and a perfect example was his long-simmering clash with veteran club doctor Hans-Wilhelm Muller-Wohlfahrt, who sensationally resigned in the spring after claiming that Guardiola had blamed the medical department for a Champions League defeat at Porto.

World-renowned orthopaedist Muller-Wohlfahrt was part of the Bayern furniture for almost four decades. He was widely seen in the Bavarian capital as the victim in the affair – and whatever Guardiola's concerns about injury recovery rates and MW's lack of presence on the training ground, he should have handled it with more finesse and tact.

Out of their depth... relegated Freiburg (in white) and Paderborn

Guardiola, for whom next season will probably be his last at Bayern, will have to be careful. After all, it was control freakery and a disregard for local mentalities which led to the demise of Jurgen Klinsmann back in 2009.

Whichever way it is cut, this season will always be regarded as an *annus horribilis* for coaching superstar Jurgen Klopp. After a half-dozen years on the up and up with Dortmund, his team suddenly and shockingly went into freefall. By Christmas they were second bottom, undone by a spate of defensive howlers, a vulnerability to counter-attacks and failure to turn possession into goals.

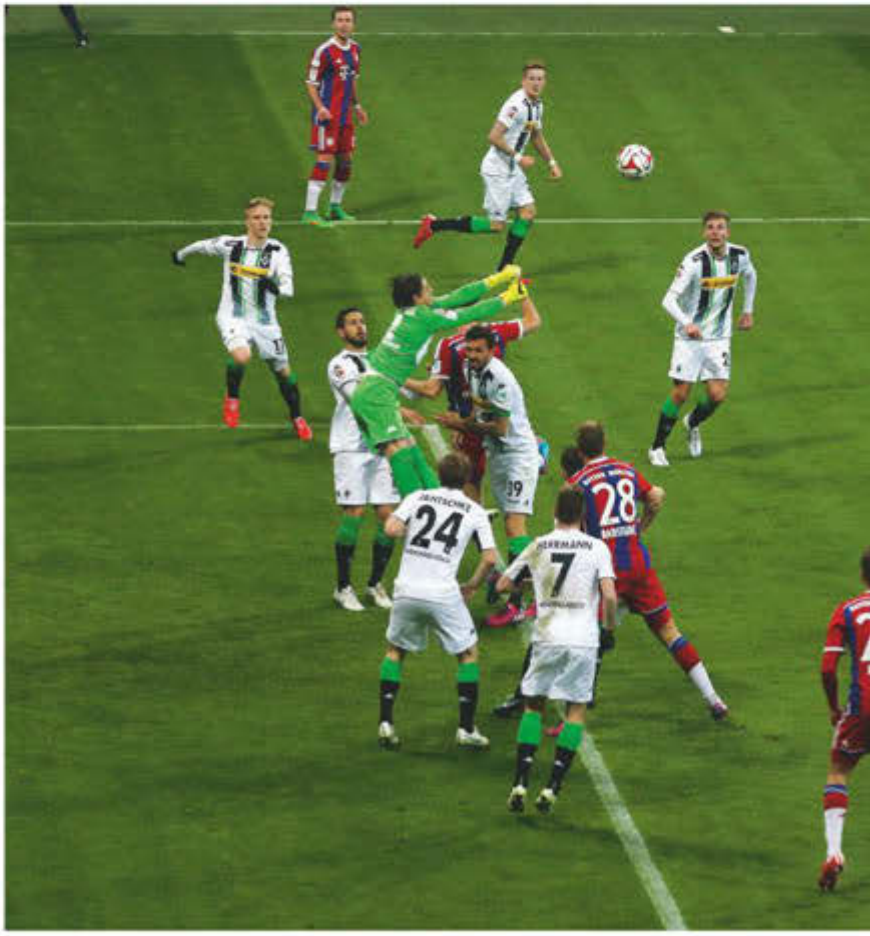
Plagued by injuries to such key players as centre-back Mats Hummels, midfield hub Ilkay Gundogan and attacker Marco Reus, Dortmund this term often seemed to lack the zip and sheer fearlessness of yore. There can be no hiding from the fact that last summer's recruitment drive was a disaster, with young German central defender Matthias Ginter, Italian striker Ciro Immobile and Colombian front runner Adrian Ramos all ending up in their own personal Bermuda Triangle.

For the first time, Klopp's philosophy became subject to sustained and virulent scrutiny. Despite his team improving in the second half of the campaign – finishing seventh in the Bundesliga and reaching the German Cup Final – an era was clearly drawing to a close at the Westfalenstadion,. Those dark days of the autumn and winter clearly took their toll, prompting the 47-year-old to announce in April that he would be stepping down at the end of the season.

The news that the seven-year Klopp reign was over undoubtedly was the Bundesliga story of the season. Adored in Dortmund for his authenticity, humour and emotion, he not only brought the club untold success – two Bundesliga titles, a German Cup and the runners-up spot in the 2013 Champions League – but he also instigated a footballing revolution, his young guns rarely failing to thrill with their aggressive, frenzied and high-tempo style.

Klopp's successor, the former Mainz boss Thomas Tuchel, undeniably has a hard, if not impossible, act to follow. Even with Hummels and Reus opting to stay loyal, the Dortmunder first XI will have to be extensively rebuilt, and it remains to be seen how easy it will be to go from the direct Klopp blitzkrieg to Tuchel's favoured possession game.

Of all the coaches operating in the Bundesliga this term, no one flopped more



Solid...Borussia Monchengladbach keep out Bayern on their way to qualification for next season's Champions League

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS

Bayern Munich (CL): Were dominance personified until easing off the accelerator with the title in the bag.

Wolfsburg (CL): Their mix of expensive stars, hungry youngsters and the odd journeyman turned the VW's Auto City into a metropolis of footballing excellence.

Bor M'gladbach (CL): The best counter-attacking team in the country were superb in 2015.

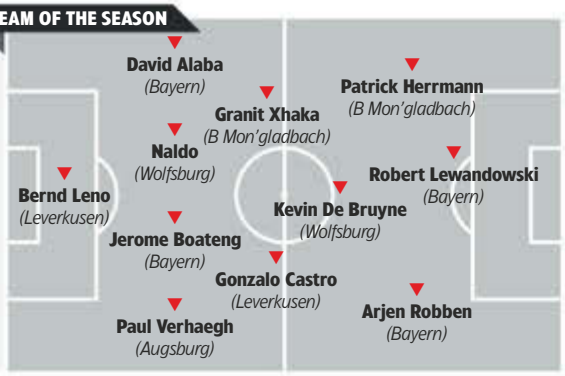
Bayer Leverkusen (CL): Coach Roger Schmidt did all that was asked of him in his first season in charge: a top-four finish, a Dortmund-like playing style and much more fighting spirit than in the past.

Augsburg (EL): Proof that even a club with the second-smallest budget in the league can be competitive. Expertly drilled by coach Markus Weinzierl, they were bold, brave and tough to outmanoeuvre.

Schalke (EL): A place in the Europa League won't make up for the disappointment of missing out on the Champions League cash. Suffered from too little creativity.

Borussia Dortmund (EL): Jurgen Klopp's high-energy side continue to outstrip most in a foot race, but were let down by their frailties at the back and indecision in the attacking third.

TEAM OF THE SEASON



dramatically than Roberto Di Matteo at Schalke. Appointed in October to replace the sacked Jens Keller, the former Chelsea manager might have been a Champions League winner with the Londoners in 2012, but he never got to grips with the volatile Gelsenkirchen scene and after finishing two places short of Champions League qualification, he walked before he could be pushed.

Winning only 14 of his 33 competitive games and without an away victory in the Bundesliga this year, Di Matteo was the exact opposite of what Schalke fans look for in a boss. He preached discipline and caution; they wanted full-blooded attack. He was cool, calculating and undemonstrative; they yearned for passion.

Not that Di Matteo was entirely to blame. A few bad apples in a squad can cause no end of damage and Schalke plainly had their share of the egomanical, the unproductive and the disruptive. A couple of weeks before the end of the season, midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng and winger Sidney Sam had the dubious distinction of being kicked off the team for disciplinary reasons, but by then, of course, it was far too late.

One of the most salient lessons of the 2014-15 Bundesliga is the heights which can be scaled success when a coach and director of sport work hand-in-glove to execute an intelligent plan.

Augsburg's Markus Weinzierl and the former German World Cup winner Stefan Reuter made light of a shoestring budget to steer their upstart club to a brilliant fifth-place finish. The Borussia Monchengladbach brains trust of master tactician Lucien Favre and sharp-eyed talent-spotter Max Eberl intelligently laid the foundations for a superb bronze medal, a chance to rediscover the Champions Cup/Champions League after 37 long years.

> "I have in the last few weeks and days asked myself if I was still the right coach for the club and I wasn't sure"
>
> **Jurgen Klopp calls time on his stint as Dortmund coach**

In full cry...Wolfsburg with the German Cup

Runners-up to Bayern, albeit 10 points to the rear, Wolfsburg too had an outstanding leadership tag-team in coach Dieter Hecking and CEO Klaus Allofs. Though it's fashionable to solely attribute their success to the huge investment of parent company VW, that's not the whole story. Over the last year or two, Hecking has added a much cuter tactical edge, and when it comes to farsighted business programmes and transfer market work, Allofs has no peers.

The Wolves were exceptional at switching defence into attack in the blink of an eye and striking early in a game, while another of their great strengths was their highly impressive "spine", the axis of Swiss goalkeeper Diego Benaglio, Brazilian central defender, Naldo, Belgian attacking midfield ace Kevin De Bruyne and reborn Dutch striker Bas Dost.

It was a good time to be an anti-relegation firefighter. Michael Frontzeck arriving just in the nick of time to save Hanover; Pal Dardai steadying the ship at Hertha Berlin; Huub Stevens eventually pulling Stuttgart away from the cliff's edge with three wins in the last three weeks of the season and Bruno Labbadia somehow keeping the severely-holed Hamburg afloat thanks to victory over Karlsruher in a promotion/relegation play-off.

A word to the wise: change your coach if you want to survive. Freiburg and Paderborn chose not to read the runes and, for their pains, ultimately fell through the trapdoor. **WS**

BUNDESLIGA 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BAYERN	34	25	4	5	80	18	79
WOLFSBURG	34	20	9	5	72	38	69
B M'GLADBACH	34	19	9	6	53	26	66
B LEVERKUSEN	34	17	10	7	62	37	61
AUGSBURG	34	15	4	15	43	43	49
SCHALKE	34	13	9	12	42	40	48
B DORTMUND	34	13	7	14	47	42	46
HOFFENHEIM	34	12	8	14	49	55	44
E FRANKFURT	34	11	10	13	56	62	43
W BREMEN	34	11	10	13	50	65	43
MAINZ	34	9	13	12	45	47	40
COLOGNE	34	9	13	12	34	40	40
HANOVER	34	9	10	15	40	56	37
STUTTGART	34	9	9	16	42	60	36
HERTHA BERLIN	34	9	8	17	36	52	35
HAMBURG	34	9	8	17	25	50	35
FREIBURG	34	7	13	14	36	47	34
PADERBORN	34	7	10	17	31	65	31

PROMOTION/RELEGATION PLAY-OFF

Hamburg v Karlsruher 1-1, 2-1aet (3-2 on agg)

TOP GOALSCORERS

Alexander Meier *(Eintracht Frankfurt)*	*19 goals*
Robert Lewandowski *(Bayern)*	*17 goals*
Arjen Robben *(Bayern)*	*17 goals*
Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang *(B Dortmund)*	*16 goals*
Bas Dost *(Wolfsburg)*	*16 goals*

Aug 22, 2014 **Bayern Munich 2** (Muller 37, Robben 47)
Wolfsburg 1 (Olic 52) Att: 71,000

Aug 23 **KEY GAME**
Borussia Dortmund 0
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Bellarabi 1, Kiessling 90+5) Att: 80,667

In a clear sign of the below-par season to come, Dortmund lose their season-opener at home to a bright Leverkusen.

Cologne 0
Hamburg 0 Att: 50,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Seferovic 15)
Freiburg 0 Att: 46,200

Hanover 2 (Prib 67, Joselu 70)
Schalke 1 (Huntelaar 47) Att: 49,000

Hertha Berlin 2 (Schieber 16, 47)
Werder Bremen 2 (Lukimya 53, Di Santo 55) Att: 59,672

Hoffenheim 2 (Szalai 33, Elyounoussi 35)
Augsburg 0 Att: 23,792

Aug 24 **Monchengladbach 1** (Kramer 90)
Stuttgart 1 (Maxim 51) Att: 50,203

Paderborn 2 (Kachunga 37, Hunemeier 87)
Mainz 2 (Okazaki 33, Koo pen 90+4) Att: 14,824

Aug 29 **Augsburg 2** (Bobadilla 82, Matavz 89)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Reus 11, Papastathopoulos 14, Ramos 78) Att: 30,660

Aug 30 **Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Jedvaj 50, Spahic 62, Brandt 74, Bellarabi 86)
Hertha Berlin 2 (Jedvaj og 24, Schieber 60) Att: 27,819

All square...Wolfsburg (in green) draw with Frankfurt

Hamburg 0
Paderborn 3 (Kachunga 29, Vrancic 68, Stoppelkamp 87) Att: 54,553

Schalke 1 (Howedes 62)
Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 10) Att: 61,973

Stuttgart 0
Cologne 2 (Osako 22, Ujah 33) Att: 55,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Galvez 59)
Hoffenheim 1 (Roberto Firmino 19) Att: 38,900

Wolfsburg 2 (Naldo 15, Arnold 79)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Jung og 23, Kadlec 86) Att: 27,528

Aug 31 **Freiburg 0**
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 24,000

Mainz 0
Hanover 0 Att: 27,647

Sep 12 **Bayer Leverkusen 3** (Jedvaj 17, Calhanoglu 63, Son 73)
Werder Bremen 3 (Bartels 45, Di Santo 60, Prodl 85) Att: 30,210

Sep 13 **Bayern Munich 2** (Gotze 27, Ribery 85)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 71,000

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Ramos 34, Kagawa 41, Aubameyang 78)
Freiburg 1 (Sorg 90) Att: 80,200

Hertha Berlin 1 (Ronny pen 86)
Mainz 3 (Okazaki 36, 90+1, Allagui 70) Att: 42,069

Hoffenheim 1 (Modeste 55)
Wolfsburg 1 (Olic 89) Att: 23,813

Monchengladbach 4 (Hahn 17, 50, Kruse 56, Raffael 79)
Schalke 1 (Choupo-Moting pen 52) Att: 54,010

Paderborn 0
Cologne 0 Att: 14,993

Sep 14 **Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
Augsburg 1 (Bobadilla 49) Att: 43,500

Hanover 2 (Andreasen 13, Sobiech 24)
Hamburg 0 Att: 49,000

Sep 19 **Freiburg 2** (Kempf 30, Klaus 79)
Hertha Berlin 2 (Ronny 36, 90+6) Att: 23,600

Sep 20 **Augsburg 4** (Baier 14, Verhaegh pen 45+3, Werner 77, Matavz 90+3)
Werder Bremen 2 (Selke 3, Di Santo pen 56) Att: 29,044

Hamburg 0
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 57,000

Mainz 2 (Okazaki 66, Ginter og 74)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 34,000

Paderborn 2 (Kachunga 71, Stoppelkamp 90+3)
Hanover 0 Att: 15,000

Schalke 2 (Choupo-Moting pen 40, Draxler 50)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier 15, Russ 24) Att: 61,798

Stuttgart 0
Hoffenheim 2 (Modeste 15, Elyounoussi 84) Att: 44,000

Sep 21 **Cologne 0**
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 50,000

Wolfsburg 4 (Rodriguez pen 8, 63, Vieirinha 45, Hunt 81)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Drmic 29) Att: 27,811

Sep 23 **Bayern Munich 4** (Gotze 8, 78, Lewandowski 14, Muller 85)
Paderborn 0 Att: 71,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier 45+1, Seferovic 82)
Mainz 2 (Hofmann 41, Okazaki 44) Att: 44,100

Hoffenheim 3 (Elyounoussi 44, Rudy 63, Vestergaard 90+3)
Freiburg 3 (Frantz 31, 33, Darida pen 75) Att: 24,872

Werder Bremen 0
Schalke 3 (Meyer 48, Neustadter 51, Barnetta 85) Att: 40,139

Sep 24 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Son 33)
Augsburg 0 Att: 23,081

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Aubameyang 73, Immobile 86)
Stuttgart 2 (Didavi 48, 68) Att: 79,500

Hanover 1 (Joselu 6)
Cologne 0 Att: 39,400

Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 35)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 35,847

Monchengladbach 1 (Kruse 25)
Hamburg 0 Att: 44,175

Sep 26 **Mainz 0**
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 28,729

Sep 27 **Cologne 0**
Bayern Munich 2 (Gotze 19, Halfar og 66) Att: 50,000

Freiburg 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 23,500

Paderborn 1 (Wemmer 70)
Monchengladbach 2 (Herrmann 8, Raffael 14) Att: 15,000

Schalke 2 (Matip 10, Choupo-Moting 23)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang 26) Att: 61,153

Stuttgart 1 (Schwaab 69)
Hanover 0 Att: 40,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Rodriguez 15, Olic 57)
Werder Bremen 1 (Busch 37) Att: 29,117

Sep 28 **Augsburg 1** (Verhaegh pen 27)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 28,532

Hamburg 1 (N Muller 58)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Seferovic 44, Piazon 90) Att: 47,643

Oct 3 **Hertha Berlin 3** (Kalou pen 22, 64, Beerens 74)
Stuttgart 2 (Leitner 5, Wagner og 83) Att: 46,312

Oct 4 **Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Bender 42, Bellarabi 90)
Paderborn 2 (Koc 20, Stoppelkamp 87) Att: 30,210

Bayern Munich 4 (Lewandowski 6, 38, Robben 13, 79)
Hanover 0 Att: 71,000

Borussia Dortmund 0
Hamburg 1 (Lasogga 35) Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Meier 44, 54, Wimmer og 79)
Cologne 2 (Risse 15, Hector 65) Att: 51,500

Hoffenheim 2 (Elyounoussi 13, Szalai 29)
Schalke 1 (Huntelaar 83) Att: 30,000

Werder Bremen 1 (Di Santo 31)
Freiburg 1 (Darida pen 8) Att: 40,029

Oct 5 **Monchengladbach 1** (Kruse 15)
Mainz 1 (Hofmann pen 31) Att: 50,383

Wolfsburg 1 (Naldo 58)
Augsburg 0 Att: 25,734

Oct 18 **Bayern Munich 6** (Lahm 20, 79, Xabi Alonso 27, Muller pen 43, Gotze 45, 86)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 71,000

Cologne 2 (Vogt 40, Zoller 74)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Immobile 48) Att: 50,000

Freiburg 1 (Kerk 90+1)
Wolfsburg 2 (Caligiuri 8, 66) Att: 23,500

Hanover 0
Monchengladbach 3 (Kruse 14, 90, Xhaka 49) Att: 49,000

Mainz 2 (Hofmann 20, Jairo 23)
Augsburg 1 (Werner 78) Att: 27,687

Schalke 2 (Huntelaar 19, Draxler 65)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 61,973

Stuttgart 3 (Werner 57, Klein 67, Harnik 76)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Son 4, 9, Bellarabi 41) Att: 40,900

Oct 19 **Hamburg 1** (Lasogga 34)
Hoffenheim 1 (Modeste 15) Att: 49,003

Paderborn 3 (Ducksch 66, Hunemeier 79, Kutschke 85)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier 57) Att: 15,000

Oct 24 **Werder Bremen 0**
Cologne 1 (Ujah 59) Att: 42,100

Oct 25 **Augsburg 2** (Verhaegh pen 11, Altintop 66)
Freiburg 0 Att: 28,324

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Calhanoglu 53)
Schalke 0 Att: 30,210

Borussia Dortmund 0
Hanover 1 (Kiyotake 62) Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Madlung 21, 65, Meier 57, Aigner 61)
Stuttgart 5 (Harnik 34, 36, Gentner 51, 84, Werner 81) Att: 49,700

Hertha Berlin 3 (Ben-Hatira 59, 85, Heitinga 65)
Hamburg 0 Att: 58,768

Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 73)
Paderborn 0 Att: 25,712

Oct 26 **Monchengladbach 0**
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 54,010

Wolfsburg 3 (Naldo 15, Perisic 59, Caligiuri 87)
Mainz 0 Att: 26,238

Oct 31 **Schalke 1** (Huntelaar 37)
Augsburg 0 Att: 60,954

Nov 1 **Bayern Munich 2** (Lewandowski 72, Robben pen 85)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Reus 31) Att: 71,000

Hamburg 1 (Van der Vaart pen 26)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 52,990

Turnaround... Bayer Leverkusen keeper Bernd Leno is unimpressed as Stuttgart come from 3-0 down to draw 3-3

Hanover 1 (Madlung og 88)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 42,200

Mainz 1 (Okazaki 3)
Werder Bremen 2 (Di Santo 45, 49) Att: 31,017

Stuttgart 0
Wolfsburg 4 (Perisic 15, 88, Knoche 45+1, De Bruyne 48) Att: 50,050

Nov 2 **Cologne 0**
Freiburg 1 (Darida pen 51) Att: 49,500

Monchengladbach 3 (Hahn 12, Herrmann 32, 52)
Hoffenheim 1 (Modeste 30) Att: 52,409

Paderborn 3 (Bakalorz 28, Kachunga 52, Meha 75)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 41) Att: 14,630

Nov 7 **Hertha Berlin 0**
Hanover 2 (Briand 44, Kiyotake 76) Att: 39,710

Nov 8 **Augsburg 3** (Werner 7, 47, Callsen-Bracker 68)
Paderborn 0 Att: 27,755

Bayer Leverkusen 0
Mainz 0 Att: 29,714

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Bayern Munich 4 (Muller 23, 64, 67, Shaqiri 86) Att: 51,500

Freiburg 2 (Gunter 22, Schmid 68)
Schalke 0 Att: 24,000

Hoffenheim 3 (Szalai 2, Roberto Firmino 39, 45)
Cologne 4 (Olkowski 5, 83, Lehmann 12, Ujah 35) Att: 30,150

Werder Bremen 2 (Prodl 30, Bartels 57)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 40,284

Nov 9 **Borussia Dortmund 1** (Kramer og 58)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 80,667

Wolfsburg 2 (Olic 27, Hunt 64)
Hamburg 0 Att: 30,000

Nov 22 **Bayern Munich 4** (Gotze 23, Lewandowski 40, Robben 82, Rode 87)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 71,000

Cologne 1 (Ujah 58)
Hertha Berlin 2 (Beerens 28, N'Djeng 86) Att: 49,200

Seven goals...Hoffenheim (right) v Hanover

Hanover 1 (Gulselam 60)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Kiessling 46, Son 58, Bellarabi 72) Att: 40,800

Mainz 2 (Diaz 27, Bell 88)
Freiburg 2 (Schmid 30, Mehmedi 58) Att: 28,157

Monchengladbach 1 (Nordtveit 6)
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Stendera 54, Meier 57, Inui 73) Att: 54,010

Paderborn 2 (Rupp 60, Saglik 81)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Aubameyang 12, Reus 45+1) Att: 15,000

Schalke 3 (Choupo-Moting 10, 22, Fuchs 25)
Wolfsburg 2 (Olic 37, Bendtner 74) Att: 60,989

Nov 23 **Hamburg 2** (Rudnevs 84, Wolf og 90+3)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 57,000

Stuttgart 0
Augsburg 1 (Verhaegh pen 72) Att: 48,200

Nov 28 **Freiburg 1** (Darida 42)
Stuttgart 4 (Harnik 31, 76, Gruezo 52, Werner 68) Att: 24,000

Nov 29 **Augsburg 3** (Altintop 50, Bobadilla 62, Verhaegh pen 70)
Hamburg 1 (Van der Vaart 45+1) Att: 30,321

Bayer Leverkusen 5 (Bellarabi 26, 90+1, Calhanoglu 61, Drmic 79, 88)
Cologne 1 (Lehmann pen 4) Att: 30,210

Hertha Berlin 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Robben 27) Att: 76,197

Hoffenheim 4 (Schwegler 19, Volland 37, Polanski 59, Sule 63)
Hanover 3 (Stindl 43, 86, Joselu 52) Att: 22,716

Schalke 4 (Huntelaar 9, 25, 61, Barnetta 54)
Mainz 1 (Okazaki 44) Att: 60,904

Werder Bremen 4 (Junuzovic 10, Selke 48, Bartels 50, Aycicek 80)
Paderborn 0 Att: 41,800

Nov 30 **Eintracht Frankfurt 2** (Meier 5, Seferovic 78)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 51,500

Wolfsburg 1 (Knoche 12)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 30,000

Dec 5 **Borussia Dortmund 1** (Gundogan 17)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 80,000

Dec 6 **Bayern Munich 1** (Ribery 51)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 71,000

Cologne 1 (Ujah 13)
Augsburg 2 (Djurdjic 53, Esswein 90) Att: 48,500

Hanover 1 (Joselu 45+1)
Wolfsburg 3 (De Bruyne 4, Dost 69, Arnold 85) Att: 41,400

Monchengladbach 3 (Jantschke 9, Raffael 53, Hazard 83)
Hertha Berlin 2 (Schieber 45, Kalou pen 90+2) Att: 50,190

Paderborn 1 (Kachunga 89)
Freiburg 1 (Darida pen 18) Att: 14,738

Stuttgart 0
Schalke 4 (Choupo-Moting 1, 21, 61, Meyer 10) Att: 44,700

Dec 7 **Eintracht Frankfurt 5** (Meier 34, 68, Seferovic 52, Aigner 76, Stendera 80)
Werder Bremen 2 (Gebre Selassie 45, Caldirola 79) Att: 46,800

Hamburg 2 (Cleber 32, Van der Vaart pen 54)
Mainz 1 (Okazaki 89) Att: 45,968

Dec 12 **Hoffenheim 3** (Volland 43, Szalai 66, Roberto Firmino 87)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Aigner 58, Seferovic 77) Att: 28,331

Dec 13 **Augsburg 0**
Bayern Munich 4 (Benatia 58, Robben 60, 71, Lewandowski 68) Att: 30,660

Freiburg 0
Hamburg 0 Att: 24,000

Hertha Berlin 1 (Schieber 40)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 75,254

Mainz 1 (Geis 36)
Stuttgart 1 (Kostic 72) Att: 29,279

Schalke 1 (Sane 85)
Cologne 2 (Ujah 47, Lehmann pen 67) Att: 61,516

Werder Bremen 3 (Junuzovic 36, Lorenzen 55, Selke 88)
Hanover 3 (Stindl 12, Joselu 62, Kiyotake 64) Att: 40,932

Dec 14 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Calhanoglu 18)
Monchengladbach 1 (Brouwers 40) Att: 30,210

Wolfsburg 1 (Rafa og 17)
Paderborn 1 (Meha pen 51) Att: 26,044

Dec 16 **Bayern Munich 2** (Robben 41, Muller 48)
Freiburg 0 Att: 71,000

Cologne 0
Mainz 0 Att: 42,900

Hamburg 0
Stuttgart 1 (Klein 42) Att: 48,223

Hanover 2 (Sane 20, Joselu pen 55)
Augsburg 0 Att: 30,800

Dec 17 **Borussia Dortmund 2** (Aubameyang 8, Immobile 76)
Wolfsburg 2 (De Bruyne 29, Naldo 85) Att: 80,467

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Aigner 43, Seferovic 58, Meier 90, 90+1)
Hertha Berlin 4 (Brooks 21, Ben-Hatira 33, Schieber 37, Niemeyer 80) Att: 40,200

Hoffenheim 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kiessling 79) Att: 24,731

Monchengladbach 4 (Kruse pen 32, Wendt 38, Kramer 64, Hrgota 88)
Werder Bremen 1 (Junuzovic 51) Att: 44,513

Paderborn 1 (Ayhan og 31)
Schalke 2 (Choupo-Moting 44, Neustadter 78) Att: 15,000

Dec 19 **KEY GAME**
Mainz 1 (Soto 21)
Bayern Munich 2 (Schweinsteiger 24, Robben 90) Att: 34,000

Arjen Robben pops up with the winning goal in the last-minute. Bayern complete the first-half of the season unbeaten.

Dec 20 **Augsburg 2** (Feulner 20, Bobadilla 51)
Monchengladbach 1 (Kruse pen 3) Att: 30,660

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Bellarabi 83)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Meier pen 37) Att: 30,210

Schalke 0
Hamburg 0 Att: 61,973

Stuttgart 0
Paderborn 0 Att: 55,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Selke 3, Bartels 62)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Hummels 69) Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 2 (Dost 16, Naldo 78)
Cologne 1 (Maroh 11) Att: 26,824

Dec 21 **Freiburg 2** (Frantz 45, Kempf 81)
Hanover 2 (Bittencourt 83, Joselu 90+3) Att: 23,550

Hertha Berlin 0
Hoffenheim 5 (Brooks og 23, Salihovic pen 26, pen 39, Schipplock 74, Rudy 84) Att: 39,604

Jan 30, 2015 **KEY GAME**
Wolfsburg 4 (Dost 4, 45+2, De Bruyne 53, 73)
Bayern Munich 1 (Bernat 55) Att: 30,000

Bayern suffer their first defeat of the season, falling victim to a Wolfsburg counter-attacking masterclass.

Jan 31 **Bayer Leverkusen 0**
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 30,210

Freiburg 4 (Darida pen 62, Petersen 64, 70, 88)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Russ 1) Att: 24,000

Hamburg 0
Cologne 2 (Risse 62, 78) Att: 56,053

Mainz 5 (Malli 6, 46, De Blasis 69, Allagui 82, Geis pen 87)
Paderborn 0 Att: 27,114

Schalke 1 (Hoger 32)
Hanover 0 Att: 61,646

Stuttgart 0
Monchengladbach 1 (Herrmann 71) Att: 46,200

Clash...Cologne (in red) win at Schalke

Feb 1 **Augsburg 3** (Altintop 39, Werner 42, Bobadilla 90+3)
Hoffenheim 1 (Roberto Firmino 45) Att: 27,090

Werder Bremen 2 (Di Santo 43, 69)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 40,187

Feb 3 **Bayern Munich 1** (Robben 67)
Schalke 1 (Howedes 72) Att: 75,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Aigner 58)
Wolfsburg 1 (De Bruyne 88) Att: 34,400

Hanover 1 (Briand 26)
Mainz 1 (Soto 77) Att: 30,500

Monchengladbach 1 (Herrmann 23)
Freiburg 0 Att: 37,091

Feb 4 **Borussia Dortmund 0**
Augsburg 1 (Bobadilla 50) Att: 80,667

Cologne 0
Stuttgart 0 Att: 48,400

Hertha Berlin 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kiessling 49) Att: 34,636

Hoffenheim 1 (Bicakcic 34)
Werder Bremen 2 (Di Santo 8, Bargfrede 52)
Att: 23,631

Paderborn 0
Hamburg 3 (Van der Vaart pen 2, Jansen 72, Stieber 90+1) Att: 15,000

Feb 6 **Schalke 1** (Barnetta 11)
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 61,973

Feb 7 **Cologne 0**
Paderborn 0 Att: 49,500

Freiburg 0
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Reus 9, Aubameyang 56, 72) Att: 24,000

Hamburg 2 (Marcelo og 26, Jansen 50)
Hanover 1 (Sobiech 66) Att: 51,779

Mainz 0
Hertha Berlin 2 (Hegeler pen 35, Beerens 42)
Att: 26,756

Stuttgart 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Robben 41, Alaba 51)
Att: 60,000

Wolfsburg 3 (Dost 3, De Bruyne 28, 84)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 26,356

Feb 8 **Augsburg 2** (Klavan 7, Bobadilla 37)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Aigner 45+2, Meier 70)
Att: 27,122

Werder Bremen 2 (Selke 17, Junuzovic 29)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Calhanoglu 43) Att: 39,653

Feb 13 **Borussia Dortmund 4** (Subotic 50, Reus 55, Aubameyang 71, Sahin 78)
Mainz 2 (Soto 1, Malli 57) Att: 80,200

Feb 14 **KEY GAME**
Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Son 57, 62, 67, Bellarabi 72)
Wolfsburg 5 (Dost 6, 29, 63, 90+3, Naldo 17)
Att: 29,227

Bas Dost scores with the last kick of the game to give Wolfsburg all three points in a nine-goal, thriller at the BayArena.

Bayern Munich 8 (Muller pen 21, 55, Gotze 23, 88, Robben 36, 47, Lewandowski 56, Ribery 69)
Hamburg 0 Att: 75,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Piazon 65)
Schalke 0 Att: 50,400

Hoffenheim 2 (Roberto Firmino 30, Rudy 90+3)
Stuttgart 1 (Sakai 39) Att: 29,309

Monchengladbach 1 (Xhaka 90+1)
Cologne 0 Att: 54,010

Werder Bremen 3 (Lukimya 16, Di Santo pen 23, Gebre Selassie 45)
Augsburg 2 (Klavan 21, Werner 79) Att: 39,746

Feb 15 **Hanover 1** (Marcelo 66)
Paderborn 2 (Lakic 72, Meha 79) Att: 38,300

Hertha Berlin 0
Freiburg 2 (Klaus 14, Philipp 52) Att: 37,617

Feb 20 **Stuttgart 2** (Klein pen 32, Niedermeier 90+1)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Aubameyang 25, Gundogan 39, Reus 89) Att: 60,000

Feb 21 **Augsburg 2** (Caiuby 59, Hitz 90+4)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Drmic 8, Reinartz 84)
Att: 28,154

Cologne 1 (Ujah 17)
Hanover 1 (Joselu 5) Att: 47,300

Freiburg 1 (Hohn 25)
Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 39) Att: 23,800

Mainz 3 (Clemens 38, Geis 47, Malli 50)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Aigner 35) Att: 33,237

Paderborn 0
Bayern Munich 6 (Lewandowski 24, 37, Robben pen 63, 86, Ribery 72, Weiser 78)
Att: 15,000

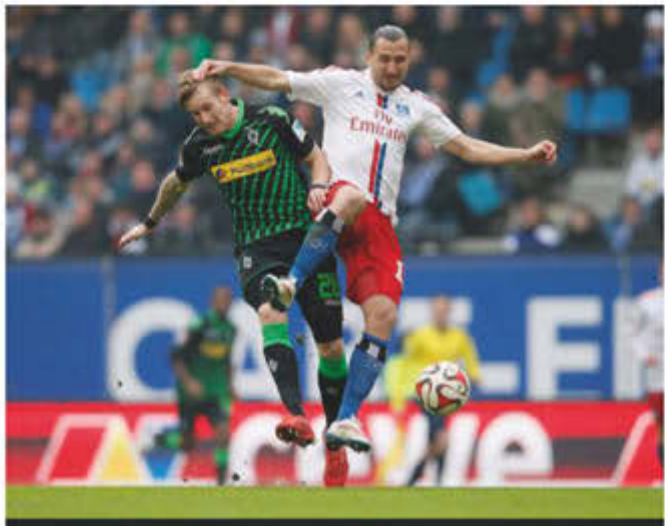
Schalke 1 (Meyer 61)
Werder Bremen 1 (Prodl 90+2) Att: 61,973

Feb 22 **Hamburg 1** (Stieber 73)
Monchengladbach 1 (Hrgota 90+2) Att: 52,105

Wolfsburg 2 (Dost 10, 74)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Schieber 30) Att: 27,683

Feb 27 **Bayern Munich 4** (Schweinsteiger 3, Ribery 10, Robben 67, Lewandowski 75)
Cologne 1 (Ujah 45+1) Att: 75,000

Feb 28 **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Rolfes 33)
Freiburg 0 Att: 28,624



Struggling...but Hamburg (in white) eventually escaped relegation by winning a play-off

Serby...Dortmund's Shinji Kagawa (in yellow) helps his side beat Schalke in February

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Aubameyang 78, Mkhitaryan 79, Reus 86)
Schalke 0 Att: 79,500

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier pen 12, 54)
Hamburg 1 (Stieber 45+2) Att: 50,500

Hanover 1 (Stindl 70)
Stuttgart 1 (Gentner 52) Att: 40,200

Hertha Berlin 1 (Kalou 88)
Augsburg 0 Att: 36,015

Hoffenheim 2 (Volland 55, Polanski 76)
Mainz 0 Att: 24,310

Mar 1 **Monchengladbach 2** (Johnson 18, Herrmann 81)
Paderborn 0 Att: 53,152

Werder Bremen 3 (Junuzovic 9, Di Santo 16, Vieirinha og 28)
Wolfsburg 5 (Caligiuri 10, 53, Arnold 18, Dost 48, 51) Att: 40,126

Mar 6 **Stuttgart 0**
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 45,420

Mar 7 **Augsburg 1** (Kohr 63)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 28,721

Freiburg 0
Werder Bremen 1 (Di Santo 35) Att: 24,000

Hamburg 0
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 57,000

Hanover 1 (Kiyotake 25)
Bayern Munich 3 (Xabi Alonso 28, Muller pen 61, 72) Att: 49,000

Mainz 2 (Geis 73, Okazaki 77)
Monchengladbach 2 (Raffael 27, 67) Att: 34,000

Schalke 3 (Fuchs 12, Meyer 41, 53)
Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 73) Att: 60,607

Mar 8 **Cologne 4** (Deyverson 28, Risse 72, Osako 79, Ujah 82)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Meier 58, pen 90+3)
Att: 50,000

Paderborn 0
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Papadopoulos 73, Son 84, 90+3) Att: 14,905

Mar 13 **Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Wendell 32, Drmic 36, 59, Bellarabi 50)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 29,384

Mar 14 **Augsburg 0**
Mainz 2 (Okazaki 32, Koo 89) Att: 28,359

Borussia Dortmund 0
Cologne 0 Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Meier 27, Stendera 42, Aigner 55, Haedo Valdez 82)
Paderborn 0 Att: 46,000

Hertha Berlin 2 (Ben-Hatira 21, Haraguchi 81)
Schalke 2 (Sane 40, Matip 90) Att: 59,156

Hoffenheim 3 (Polanski pen 22, 81, Rudy 87)
Hamburg 0 Att: 30,150

Werder Bremen 0
Bayern Munich 4 (Muller 24, Alaba 45, Lewandowski 76, 90+1) Att: 42,100

Mar 15 **Monchengladbach 2** (Herrmann 43, 75)
Hanover 0 Att: 49,134

Wolfsburg 3 (De Bruyne 19, Rodriguez pen 78, Arnold 85)
Freiburg 0 Att: 26,538

Mar 20 **Hamburg 0**
Hertha Berlin 1 (Langkamp 84) Att: 53,640

Mar 21 **Cologne 1** (Lehmann pen 88)
Werder Bremen 1 (Selke 27) Att: 50,000

Freiburg 2 (Schmid 71, Petersen 84)
Augsburg 0 Att: 23,700

Hanover 2 (Stindl 31, 82)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Aubameyang 19, 61, Kagawa 57) Att: 49,000

Paderborn 0
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 14,401

Schalke 0
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Bellarabi 35) Att: 61,973

Stuttgart 3 (Ginczek 63, 66, Maxim 80)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Seferovic 51) Att: 48,500

Mar 22 **KEY GAME**
Bayern Munich 0
Monchengladbach 2 (Raffael 30, 77) Att: 75,000

Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Bayern side lose their first encounter at the Allianz-Arena, taken down by two goals from Gladbach's Brazilian midfielder Raffael.

Mainz 1 (Bungert 7)
Wolfsburg 1 (Luiz Gustavo 61) Att: 32,236

Apr 4 **Bayer Leverkusen 4** (Castro 7, 63, Kiessling 44, 56)
Hamburg 0 Att: 30,210

Borussia Dortmund 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 36) Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Madlung 27, Aigner 54)
Hanover 2 (Marcelo 69, Ya Konan 82) Att: 49,600

Freiburg 1 (Frantz 37)
Cologne 0 Att: 23,800

Hoffenheim 1 (Schipplock 17)
Monchengladbach 4 (Kruse pen 26, Herrmann 31, 51, Raffael 36) Att: 30,150

Werder Bremen 0
Mainz 0 Att: 41,000

Wolfsburg 3 (Rodriguez pen 41, 65, Schurrle 76)
Stuttgart 1 (Harnik 44) Att: 30,000

Apr 5 **Augsburg 0**
Schalke 0 Att: 30,660

Hertha Berlin 2 (Stocker 68, Schulz 88)
Paderborn 0 Att: 44,031

Apr 10 **Hanover 1** (Schulz 75)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Stocker 83) Att: 46,000

Apr 11 **Bayern Munich 3** (Lewandowski 15, 66, Muller 82)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 75,000

Hamburg 0
Wolfsburg 2 (Guilavogui 10, Caligiuri 73) Att: 57,000

Mainz 2 (Koo pen 78, pen 90+1)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Son 15, Kiessling 60, Calhanoglu 73) Att: 31,578

Monchengladbach 3 (Wendt 1, Raffael 32, Nordtveit 67)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Gundogan 77) Att: 54,010

Paderborn 2 (Kachunga 48, Lakic 60)
Augsburg 1 (Hojbjerg 52) Att: 14,446

Schalke 0
Freiburg 0 Att: 61,471

Apr 12 **Cologne 3** (Lehmann pen 20, Ujah 54, Hector 78)
Hoffenheim 2 (Polanski pen 70, Modeste 88) Att: 45,000

Stuttgart 3 (Gentner 15, Ginczek 70, 90+1)
Werder Bremen 2 (Selke 50, Vestergaard 86) Att: 51,330

Apr 17 **Eintracht Frankfurt 0**
Monchengladbach 0 Att: 51,500

Apr 18 **Augsburg 2** (Werner 7, Bobadilla 73)
Stuttgart 1 (Ginczek 22) Att: 30,660

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Toprak 20, Brandt 40, Papadopoulos 49, Kiessling 70)
Hanover 0 Att: 29,482

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Mkhitaryan 48, Aubameyang 55, Kagawa 80)
Paderborn 0 Att: 80,667

Freiburg 2 (Mehmedi 81, Schmid 90+1)
Mainz 3 (Okazaki 39, 45+1, Malli 84) Att: 24,000

Hertha Berlin 0
Cologne 0 Att: 51,203

Hoffenheim 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Rode 38, Beck og 90+3) Att: 30,150

Apr 19 **Werder Bremen 1** (Di Santo pen 84)
Hamburg 0 Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 1 (De Bruyne 78)
Schalke 1 (Sane 53) Att: 30,000

Apr 24 **Mainz 2** (Bell 28, 31)
Schalke 0 Att: 34,000

Apr 25 **KEY GAME**
Bayern Munich 1 (Schweinsteiger 80)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 75,000

Bastian Schweinsteiger fires home a late winner to put Bayern on the brink of another Bundesliga title. The following day, Gladbach's defeat of Wolfsburg makes it certain.

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Aubameyang pen 24, Kagawa 32)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 80,667

Cologne 1 (Finne 83)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Brandt 60) Att: 45,600

Hamburg 3 (Olic 11, Lasogga 19, 71)
Augsburg 2 (Bobadilla 25, Werner 69) Att: 51,321

Hanover 1 (Stindl pen 24)
Hoffenheim 2 (Modeste 2, Schipplock 83) Att: 46,200

Stuttgart 2 (Ginczek 24, Harnik 27)
Freiburg 2 (Petersen pen 58, 85) Att: 58,000

Apr 26 **Monchengladbach 1** (Kruse 90)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 52,147

Paderborn 2 (Vrancic 25, Stoppelkamp 27)
Werder Bremen 2 (Selke 45, Hajrovic 76) Att: 15,000

May 2 **Augsburg 0**
Cologne 0 Att: 29,158

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Calhanoglu 55, Brandt 81)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 30,210

Freiburg 1 (Petersen 40)
Paderborn 2 (Rupp 70, 80) Att: 24,000

Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 33)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Hummels 35) Att: 30,150

Schalke 3 (Huntelaar 9, 78, Klein og 89)
Stuttgart 2 (Harnik 22, Kostic 51) Att: 61,973

Werder Bremen 1 (Selke 66)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 42,100

Wolfsburg 2 (Dost 24, Perisic 45)
Hanover 2 (Briand 47, Sane 58) Att: 29,514

May 3 **Hertha Berlin 1** (Stocker 13)
Monchengladbach 2 (Kruse 11, Traore 85) Att: 56,881

Mainz 1 (Malli 76)
Hamburg 2 (Baumgartlinger og 37, Kacar 87) Att: 34,000

May 8 **Hamburg 1** (Kacar 90)
Freiburg 1 (Mehmedi 25) Att: 57,000

May 9 **Bayern Munich 0**
Augsburg 1 (Bobadilla 71) Att: 75,000

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Subotic 9, Durm 47)
Hertha Berlin 0 Att: 80,667

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Oczipka 18, Seferovic 27, Chandler 34)
Hoffenheim 1 (Volland 51) Att: 50,600

Hanover 1 (Stindl 21)
Werder Bremen 1 (Junuzovic 78) Att: 49,000

Monchengladbach 3 (Kruse 50, Herrmann 81, Traore 88)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 53,761

Stuttgart 2 (Didavi 66, Kostic 79)
Mainz 0 Att: 54,300

May 10 **Cologne 2** (Risse 34, Gerhardt 89)
Schalke 0 Att: 46,500

Paderborn 1 (Rupp 90+1)
Wolfsburg 3 (Klose 16, Dost 25, 82) Att: 14,659

May 16 **Augsburg 1** (Verhaegh pen 30)
Hanover 2 (Stindl 24, 54) Att: 29,899

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Calhanoglu 45+1, Kiessling 61)
Hoffenheim 0 Att: 29,072

Freiburg 2 (Mehmedi 33, Petersen 89)
Bayern Munich 1 (Schweinsteiger 13) Att: 24,000

Hertha Berlin 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 60,168

Mainz 2 (Koo 47, Jairo 83)
Cologne 0 Att: 33,702

Schalke 1 (Hunemeier og 88)
Paderborn 0 Att: 61,973

Stuttgart 2 (Gentner 27, Harnik 35)
Hamburg 1 (Kacar 12) Att: 60,000

Werder Bremen 0
Monchengladbach 2 (Raffael 53, 86) Att: 42,100

Champion...Bastian Schweinsteiger

Wolfsburg 2 (Caligiuri 1, Naldo 49)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Aubameyang pen 11) Att: 30,000

May 23 **Bayern Munich 2** (Lewandowski pen 25, Schweinsteiger 48)
Mainz 0 Att: 75,000

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Kagawa 15, Aubameyang 17, Mkhitaryan 42)
Werder Bremen 2 (Oztunali 26, Gebre Selassie 85) Att: 80,667

Cologne 2 (Osako 3, Knoche og 61)
Wolfsburg 2 (Luiz Gustavo 8, Perisic 15) Att: 49,200

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Seferovic 4, Madlung 39)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Bellarabi 6) Att: 51,500

Hamburg 2 (Olic 49, Rajkovic 58)
Schalke 0 Att: 57,000

Hanover 2 (Kiyotake 3, Krmas og 84)
Freiburg 1 (Petersen 90+2) Att: 49,000

Hoffenheim 2 (Modeste 8, Roberto Firmino 80)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Beerens 72) Att: 30,150

Monchengladbach 1 (Raffael 36)
Augsburg 3 (Hojbjerg 72, Matavz 77, Molders 90+5) Att: 54,010

Paderborn 1 (Vucinovic 4)
Stuttgart 2 (Didavi 36, Ginczek 72) Att: 15,000

Close...Gonzalo Castro missed with this free-kick but Leverkusen still won 3-2 at Mainz

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Alejandro Dominguez
(Olympiakos)
The 33-year-old Argentinian midfielder topped the league table for attempts on goal (83), assists (11) and passes (347). He also finished third in the scoring charts, helping himself to 15 goals.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Alexandros Kontos
(Kerkyra)
The 28-year-old attacking midfielder weighed in with eight goals and five assists in his breakthrough season in the top flight with the club from Corfu. Played two Superleague games four seasons ago with Panserraikos.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Giannis Anastasiou
(Panathinaikos)
Led the team to second place in the regular season with a strong finish in the second half of the campaign and has extended his contract until 2018 to become the club's first Greek coach to start three seasons in a row.

Champions named in match-fixing investigation

Double...league champs Olympiakos pick up the cup

Olympiakos' fifth successive championship was their 42nd in total and their 17th in the last 19 years, and they ended the season by adding the Greek Cup for a 27th time to complete a 17th domestic double. But a dark shadow has been cast over the country's most successful and best supported side, with accusations that their 3-0 win against Veria in January 2013 was fixed.

According to testimony before prosecutor Aristidis Korreas – given by Veria's coach at the time, Dimitris Kalaitzidis, and the team's former player Nikos Georgeas, who now plays for AEK – Veria players were ordered to lose by that score in a deal arranged by Olympiakos owner Evangelos Marinakis.

This was the first time Olympiakos have been mentioned in the Greek judicial authorities ongoing investigations into match fixing and the prosecutor is now looking into accusations that Marinakis, along with three members of the Greek Football Federation, had been directing a criminal organisation to control the sport through blackmail and fraud since 2011.

Marinakis is accused of using his economic and political influence to arrange certain referees for key matches, as well as loaning a number of players to teams in order to gain their backing.

Marinakis, and 25 other defendants, have denied the charges.

Much of the dialogue from the match-fixing investigation has been leaked to Kyriakos Thomaidis, who is a journalist with Skai TV – which is owned by Giannis Alafouzos, who is the president and majority shareholder of Panathinaikos.

"We want to see a change in the way Greek soccer is managed," says Alafouzos. "We want to be convinced that we will not face next season the way the league was conducted this year.

"Whether Mr Marinakis is sentenced or not is a matter for justice to decide."

In April, an Athens prosecutor recommended that 93 people be brought before the Court of Appeals for Felonies, but the deputy prosecutor of the Court of Appeals, Panagiotis Poulios, argued that 53 – including Marinakis – should not be called due to a lack of evidence.

The court is expected to decide on Poulios' recommendations after the summer and trials will either start at the end of the year or in early 2016.

In his 4,100-page report, Poulios refers to 51 matches during the period 2008 to 2011 which are "suspected" of being fixed, including Super League matches, second-tier games and Greek Cup contests. Charges being faced include participation in a criminal enterprise, criminal extortion, corruption, threats, fraud, illegal gambling and money laundering.

In February, the Super League's board of directors meeting ended abruptly when a shouting match between the presidents of Olympiakos and Panathinaikos ended in an altercation. Alafouzos told the media that his deputy, former club great Vasilis Konstantinou, was attacked and received a cut lip from one of Marinakis' bodyguards.

"We were assaulted," claimed Alafouzos. "Mr Marinakis threw a glass of water at me and his bodyguard threw a punch at Mr Konstantinou. I cannot believe a board of the Super League had such violence."

The incident came after Alafouzos and Marinakis swore at each other, continuing the war of words two days after the violence-marred derby between the two clubs was won 2-1 by Panathinaikos.

> "We have decided to leave the rottenness that exists in football"
> OFI's Nikos Machlas

Named...Olympiakos owner Marinakis

And football-related hooliganism is just one of the problems that Greece's new leftist government is trying to address.

Under the new legislation, fines ranging from €10,000 to €25million for violent incidents can be imposed, as well as events being postponed or cancelled. The new legislation also introduces guidelines for the use of security cameras, electronic ticketing, heavy fines to media outlets for showing or inciting violence, and prison terms for individuals from unofficial supporters clubs for issuing tickets.

The bill also calls on referees to submit financial statements of their wealth to the relevant authorities.

However, UEFA and FIFA have warned

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Olympiakos and **Panathinaikos** will be in the Champions League, **PAOK**, **Asteras** and **Atromitos** are in the Europa League.

CUP WINNERS
Debutant finalists Xanthi were beaten 3-1 by **Olympiakos**, who won the double.

RELEGATED
Ergotelis and **Levadiakos** were relegated, while **Niki Volos** and **OFI** did not complete the season.

PROMOTED
With next season's Superleague being reduced from 18 to 16 teams, **AEK** and **Iraklis** were the only teams to be promoted this term.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

Greece that government interference with the affairs of the country's football federation would not be tolerated and could lead to the federation's suspension.

"Our objective was not to exclude our teams from international competitions but to bring order," says sports minister Stavros Kontonis.

At least one sort of order has been restored in the domestic game with the return of AEK to the Superleague next term, following their drop to amateur status following a period of turmoil.

"The story is well known and very sad for our fans," admits AEK executive director Dusan Bajevic. "But now we are on the right path and feel much better.

"We must keep our feet on the ground, be serious, make the right moves and avoid mistakes."

In 2013, the club were relegated to the second division for the first time in their 81-year history due to a €35m debt, caused by the financial mismanagement of successive short-lived administrations.

Although their management woes were over a decade in the making, the fall coincided with the climax of Greece's own economic crisis. So, to clear the slate, the club opted to drop to the amateur third tier in order to qualify for liquidation.

The future is not so bright for Crete-based OFI, who announced at the start of the second half of the season that they were withdrawing from the Superleague due to "unfair and uneven decisions".

"We have decided to leave the rottenness that exists in football and to be able once again to become the team that we all want and not to be treated like something I wouldn't want to mention," says former OFI and Greece striker Nikos Machlas, who acts as chairman of the steering committee of the team.

Founded in 1925, OFI were not the first team to quit the top flight, with Niki Volos departing earlier in the campaign due to financial difficulties.

"We see laws observed in some cases and not in others," adds Machlas. "We see decisions with other weights and measures. The club's administration put a huge effort into finishing the season with dignity but we saw decisions which massacred the team. It is a shame for all and a shame for soccer." **WS**

SUPERLEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLYMPIAKOS	34	24	6	4	79	23	78
PANATHINAIKOS [1]	34	21	6	7	59	31	66
PAOK	34	20	5	9	57	42	65
ASTERAS	34	17	8	9	52	37	59
ATROMITOS	34	14	12	8	43	27	54
PAS GIANNINA	34	13	14	7	47	33	53
PANETOLIKOS	34	14	10	10	41	28	52
XANTHI	34	12	11	11	44	41	47
PLATANIAS	34	12	8	14	32	30	44
KERKYRA	34	12	8	14	39	38	44
KALLONI	34	11	11	12	34	39	44
PANTHRAKIKOS	34	11	10	13	35	44	43
PANIONIOS	34	11	10	13	43	42	43
VERIA	34	12	7	15	45	54	43
LEVADIAKOS	34	12	7	15	41	34	43
ERGOTELIS	34	8	8	18	35	60	32
OFI [2]	34	7	2	25	26	72	-6
NIKI VOLOS [2]	34	2	1	31	7	84	-6

[1]3pts deducted for fan violence [2]withdrew mid-season and all remaining games were awarded as 3-0 wins to their scheduled opponents; both had their points tally reduced to -6

TOP GOALSCORERS

Jeronimo Barrales *(Asteras)*	*17 goals*
Kostas Mitroglou *(Olympiakos)*	*16 goals*
Alejandro Dominguez *(Olympiakos)*	*15 goals*

Clash...Panathinaikos' Stathis Tavlaridis (green) and Kostas Mitroglou of Olympiakos

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ASTERAS	ATROMITOS	ERGOTELIS	KALLONI	KERKYRA	LEVADIAKOS	NIKI VOLOS	OFI	OLYMPIAKOS	PANETOLIKOS	PANATH'KOS	PANIONIOS	PANTHRAKIKOS	PAOK	PAS GIANNINA	PLATANIAS	VERIA	XANTHI
ASTERAS		1-0	2-1	1-0	2-0	2-1	3-0	6-1	0-0	1-1	1-1	2-0	2-1	3-0	2-2	1-0	2-0	2-1
ATROMITOS	4-3		1-1	0-0	2-1	1-0	3-0	3-0	1-0	0-0	2-0	3-1	2-0	4-0	1-1	1-0	0-0	2-0
ERGOTELIS	1-4	1-2		3-3	1-2	0-2	3-0	3-2	2-3	1-1	0-2	2-2	2-1	0-2	1-0	0-3	2-2	0-2
KALLONI	1-0	1-1	2-0		1-0	0-0	3-0	3-0	0-5	0-0	1-0	1-0	2-0	1-2	1-0	0-0	4-1	2-2
KERKYRA	1-0	1-1	3-1	2-0		0-0	3-0	4-1	0-4	1-2	1-1	1-0	2-1	0-1	2-0	1-2	4-0	0-0
LEVADIAKOS	3-1	2-1	1-1	3-0	2-3		3-0	3-0	1-2	0-0	1-1	1-0	1-1	1-2	1-2	0-0	0-2	1-2
NIKI VOLOS	0-2	0-1	1-4	2-0	0-0	0-3		DNP	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	1-0	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3
OFI	2-3	1-0	1-0	1-1	3-2	0-2	3-0		0-3	1-0	2-3	0-3	0-1	3-1	0-3	0-3	0-1	0-1
OLYMPIAKOS	2-0	2-1	3-0	5-0	3-0	4-0	3-1	3-0		2-0	1-0	2-0	5-1	1-2	2-2	2-1	3-0	2-0
PANETOLIKOS	2-0	1-1	4-0	2-0	0-1	0-1	3-0	3-1	1-1		0-1	2-1	3-1	0-1	0-0	1-0	2-0	5-2
PANATHINAIKOS	2-2	2-0	5-0	1-0	2-0	1-0	1-0	1-2	2-1	1-0		2-1	4-0	4-3	3-1	3-0	2-1	2-0
PANIONIOS	2-1	2-2	2-1	0-2	0-0	1-0	2-1	2-0	2-2	3-0	1-1		2-1	0-0	0-1	0-0	4-2	1-1
PANTHRAKIKOS	1-1	1-1	0-0	3-2	1-0	1-0	3-0	0-0	1-3	0-0	2-1	1-0		3-1	1-1	1-0	1-1	2-0
PAOK	0-0	2-1	1-0	1-1	2-1	1-0	3-0	4-0	0-0	1-2	1-2	3-2	3-2		1-1	1-0	4-1	2-1
PAS GIANNINA	3-1	1-0	0-0	0-0	2-1	0-4	4-0	3-0	3-1	0-0	0-0	1-3	2-2	3-0		1-0	4-1	2-2
PLATANIAS	0-1	0-0	1-2	1-0	1-1	1-3	3-1	1-0	1-1	2-0	2-3	3-0	2-0	0-4	0-0		1-0	1-0
VERIA	4-0	1-1	0-1	1-1	2-1	2-1	2-0	4-1	0-2	1-3	1-0	2-2	0-1	1-3	2-0	2-0		3-2
XANTHI	0-0	1-0	0-1	2-1	0-0	2-0	2-0	2-1	1-3	3-0	4-2	1-1	0-0	4-2	1-1	0-0	2-2	

All at stake...PAOK (stripes) and Panathinaikos in the play-offs

EUROPEAN PLAY-OFFS

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ASTERAS	ATROMITOS	PANATHINAIKOS	PAOK
ASTERAS		1-0	0-4	1-0
ATROMITOS	0-0		2-0	1-1
PANATHINAIKOS	0-0	2-0		2-0
PAOK	0-0	0-1	0-1	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PANATHINAIKOS	6	4	1	1	9	2	15
ASTERAS	6	2	3	1	2	4	10
ATROMITOS	6	2	2	2	4	4	8
PAOK	6	0	2	4	1	6	4

HOLLAND

KLASS-JAN DROPPERT

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Memphis Depay
(PSV)
The league's top scorer agreed a deal to join Manchester United next season. Played for current United boss Louis Van Gaal at the 2014 World Cup, where he became Holland's youngest scorer at a finals.

PSV on top as other big clubs struggle

While it was a season to remember for many of the country's smaller clubs, most of Holland's top sides will hope to erase all memory of the 59th edition of the Eredivisie.

The exception to this rule, however, was PSV, who won the title for the first time in seven years.

Much of their success was down to the bond between Memphis Depay and Georginio Wijnaldum who, after a highly successful World Cup together, both decided against moving abroad and opted to stay in Eindhoven for the 2014-15 season. That decision paid off handsomely, with Depay scoring 22 goals before earning a €25million transfer to Manchester United. Club skipper Wijnaldum was maybe less spectacular but just as vital in keeping his team-mates focused on the ultimate goal.

Right from the start there was little doubt who the best team in Holland were. Depay and Wijnaldum were well supported by the prolific Luuk De Jong, who managed 20 goals following unsuccessful spells at Newcastle United and Borussia Monchengladbach; left-back Jetro Willems, who was second in the season's assists rankings; and the 28-year-old Mexico international Andres Guardado, who kept an attack-minded team together.

The title was also a huge boost for Phillip Cocu, who was heavily criticised in his first year in charge and missed the end of the season due to a tumour in his back. He also became the third man – after Eric Gerets and Ronald Koeman – to win titles with PSV as both a player and a coach

Ajax had their traditional setback before the winter break but, unlike in the previous four campaigns, this time Frank De Boer's team couldn't make up ground. Supporters reacted with anger at the directors' announcement that they needed to raise ticket prices next season "in order to keep up with the European giants" while expecting the fans to watch a lacklustre team every home game.

Meanwhile, Ajax's "Velvet Revolution" also looks in danger as Wim Jonk, head of the youth academy, and director Marc Overmars are no longer on speaking terms after Jonk criticised his former team-mate's transfer policy of buying mediocre players such as Lerin Duarte and Mike Van der Hoorn. According to Jonk, those squad places should be filled by recruits from the academy. Things got so bad that even Johan Cruyff himself arrived in Amsterdam to try to sort things out.

Things weren't much better at Feyenoord, who managed to throw away their entire season in the final stages.

Five weeks before the end of the campaign they looked set to finish in third place – which guarantees automatic qualification to the Europa League group stage – by beating AZ. But after collecting just two points in their last five games they slipped to fourth. The Rotterdam club then fell at the first hurdle in the play-offs.

Feyenoord coach Fred Rutten didn't even make it to the play-offs and was sacked as soon as the league finished, but his successor Giovanni Van Bronckhorst was unable to repair the damage.

Arguably the biggest loser has been Twente, who had a six-point deduction imposed due to financial chaos. In a bid to stay at the top of the tree after winning the title in 2010, megalomanic chairman Joop Munsterman took far too many risks, paying extraordinary salaries to mediocre players while facing increasing debt

Double...Cocu has won the title as a player and a coach with PSV

Strong...PSV's Luciano Narsingh (right) shrugs off Miquel Nelom of Feyenoord

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Andres Guardado *(PSV)*
The Mexican winger joined on loan from Valencia last summer and his experience was just what a young team needed to make the final push for the championship. Has now signed a deal tieing him to PSV for three years.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Jurgen Streppel *(Willem II)*
Led the Tilburg-based club to ninth place in their first year back at the highest level. His side played attractive football while also proving hard to beat.

PROMOTED
NEC, **De Graafschap** and **Roda**.

CUP WINNERS
Groningen won silverware for the first time in their history, beating holders PEC Zwolle 2-0 in the Final, at De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam, with two goals from Albert Rusnak.

RELEGATED
Dordrecht, **Go Ahead Eagles** and **NAC**.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
PSV go into the Champions League group stage, while **Ajax** enter at the third qualifying round. **AZ** are in the Europa League group phase, with **Groningen**, **Vitesse** and **Go Ahead Eagles** – as Holland's fair-play entrant – in the qualifying rounds.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

repayments on the stadium and missing out on potential millions as they repeatedly failed to qualify for the Champions League.

Munsterman, who sold the club's transfer rights to the Doyen Sports Group, took control of everything on his own and his fellow board members only found out what was going on when it was too late. A recovery plan is now in place, but it will take time. Meanwhile, the fans have lost patience with coach Alfred Schreuder and his position would seem at risk were it not for the fact that sacking a man who was given a contract by Munsterman until 2019 would only add to Twente's debts. In fact, the club's financial situation is so dire that they turned down the chance to play in the Europe League qualifiers next term after Holland was awarded an extra spot by finishing top of the fair play ranking. Instead, Go Ahead Eagles, who were relegated, will take their place.

Where there are losers, there are also winners, of course, and AZ did extremely well to overcome a crisis of their own. Early in the season, Marco Van Basten found the personal pressure too much and stepped back to become an assistant. The club's number two, Alex Pastoor, took over but within a few weeks he was gone after a difference of opinion with his new assistant. In September, former Anderlecht boss John Van den Brom arrived and, with Van Basten still on board, he led the club to third place.

> "I've learned so much at PSV, not only on the pitch but also as a person"
> Memphis Depay

Special praise should also go to Groningen, who won the Dutch Cup for the first time, and Willem II, who came up from the second tier and finished ninth. They will be the blueprint for NEC, who return to the top flight after just one season's absence. And with the Nijmegen club collecting a record 101 points on their way to promotion, why shouldn't they continue to grow in a league where the small clubs seem to win more and more every year? WS

EREDIVISIE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	34	29	1	4	92	31	88
AJAX	34	21	8	5	69	29	71
AZ	34	19	5	10	63	56	62
FEYENOORD	34	17	8	9	56	39	59
VITESSE	34	16	10	8	66	43	58
PEC ZWOLLE	34	16	5	13	59	43	53
HEERENVEEN	34	13	11	10	53	46	50
GRONINGEN	34	11	13	10	49	53	46
WILLEM II	34	13	7	14	46	50	46
TWENTE	34	13	10	11	56	51	43
UTRECHT	34	11	8	15	60	62	41
CAMBUUR	34	11	8	15	46	56	41
DEN HAAG	34	9	10	15	44	53	37
HERACLES	34	11	4	19	47	64	37
EXCELSIOR	34	6	14	14	47	63	32
NAC	34	6	10	18	36	68	28
GO AHEAD	34	7	6	21	29	59	27
DORDRECHT	34	4	8	22	24	76	20

European play-off semi-finals
Heerenveen v Feyenoord 1-0, 2-2 (agg 3-2)
PEC Zwolle v Vitesse 1-2, 1-1 (agg 2-3)

European play-off Final
Heerenveen v Vitesse 2-2, 2-5 (agg 4-7)

Not enough...Ajax's Nick Viergever celebrates his goal against Twente

KEY
Home win | Away win
0-0 | Score draw
No fixture

HOME TEAM ▸ / AWAY TEAM ▸	AJAX	AZ	CAMBUUR	DEN HAAG	DORDRECHT	EXCELSIOR	FEYENOORD	GO AHEAD EAGLES	GRONINGEN	HEERENVEEN	HERACLES	NAC	PEC ZWOLLE	PSV	TWENTE	UTRECHT	VITESSE	WILLEM II
AJAX		0-1	3-0	1-0	4-0	1-0	0-0	3-1	2-0	4-1	2-1	0-0	0-0	1-3	4-2	3-1	4-1	5-0
AZ	1-3		2-1	3-1	2-0	3-3	1-4	2-0	2-2	0-1	3-1	3-2	1-0	2-4	2-2	0-3	1-0	2-0
CAMBUUR	2-4	0-2		3-2	4-1	1-1	0-1	1-0	3-0	2-1	1-0	0-1	2-1	1-2	1-1	3-1	0-2	1-2
DEN HAAG	1-1	2-3	2-2		2-0	2-2	0-1	1-1	3-0	0-1	1-3	3-2	3-2	2-3	2-0	2-0	1-0	3-2
DORDRECHT	2-1	1-3	0-0	0-0		1-0	1-2	2-1	1-1	0-0	2-3	0-1	1-2	1-3	0-4	1-3	2-6	0-4
EXCELSIOR	0-2	1-4	1-1	2-3	1-1		2-5	3-2	1-1	3-0	3-1	0-0	0-5	2-3	2-1	2-2	1-3	2-3
FEYENOORD	0-1	2-2	2-1	2-1	2-0	3-2		0-1	4-0	1-1	2-1	3-0	2-0	2-1	3-1	1-2	1-4	1-2
GO AHEAD EAGLES	1-2	0-2	1-2	1-0	0-0	0-0	0-4		2-3	1-1	1-3	2-0	3-2	0-3	2-2	0-2	0-2	1-0
GRONINGEN	2-0	2-4	3-2	1-1	2-0	1-1	1-1	2-0		1-1	3-1	1-0	0-1	1-1	2-2	2-2	1-1	1-0
HEERENVEEN	1-4	5-2	2-2	0-0	1-2	2-0	3-1	2-2	3-1		0-1	0-0	4-0	1-0	1-3	3-1	4-1	1-1
HERACLES	0-2	0-3	0-1	3-1	1-1	0-3	2-0	1-0	2-2	1-4		6-1	2-0	1-2	1-4	1-1	1-1	1-3
NAC	2-5	0-1	2-1	1-1	2-2	1-1	0-1	1-0	4-5	0-2	1-3		3-1	0-2	1-1	1-5	0-1	0-0
PEC ZWOLLE	1-1	1-1	6-1	3-1	4-0	1-1	3-0	0-1	2-0	2-2	4-2	4-1		3-1	1-2	2-0	2-1	1-0
PSV	1-3	3-0	4-0	1-0	3-0	3-0	4-3	5-0	2-1	4-1	2-0	6-1	3-1		2-0	3-1	2-0	2-1
TWENTE	1-1	0-2	2-1	2-2	3-0	1-3	0-0	2-1	1-2	2-0	2-0	1-1	2-0	0-5		3-1	1-2	3-2
UTRECHT	1-1	6-2	1-3	0-0	6-1	2-2	0-0	2-3	1-0	1-2	2-4	3-4	0-2	1-5	1-0		3-1	2-1
VITESSE	1-0	3-1	2-2	6-1	3-0	3-1	0-0	2-2	1-1	1-1	3-0	2-2	2-1	0-1	2-2	3-3		2-0
WILLEM II	1-1	3-0	1-1	1-0	2-1	1-1	2-2	1-0	1-4	2-1	3-0	2-1	0-1	1-3	2-2	1-0	1-4	

Maiden success...Groningen win a trophy for the first time

Relegation/promotion play-offs First Round
Almere City v De Graafschap 1-1, 1-2 (agg 2-3)
Oss v VVV Venlo 1-2, 0-0 (agg 1-2)

Relegation/promotion play-offs Second Round
De Graafschap v Go Ahead Eagles 1-0, 1-0 (agg 2-0)
Volendam v Eindhoven 2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
VVV Venlo v NAC 0-1, 0-3 (agg 0-4)
Emmen v Roda 0-1, 2-2 (agg 2-3)

Relegation/promotion play-offs Third Round
De Graafschap v Volendam 0-0, 1-0 (agg 1-0)
NAC v Roda 1-0, 1-2aet (agg 2-2; Roda win on away goals)

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Memphis Depay *(PSV)*	*22 goals*
Luuk De Jong *(PSV)*	*20 goals*
Michael De Leeuw *(Groningen)*	*17 goals*
Michiel Kramer *(Den Haag)*	*17 goals*

PADDY AGNEW

Big problems still haunt the Italian game

Two days after Juventus' 3-1 loss to Barcelona, club president Andrea Agnelli met the media to offer his reflection on what has been a momentous season for the club. In the process, he not only offered an accurate summary of the Champions League Final but – and arguably more importantly – he also suggested that, the game in Berlin notwithstanding, all is not well with football in Italy.

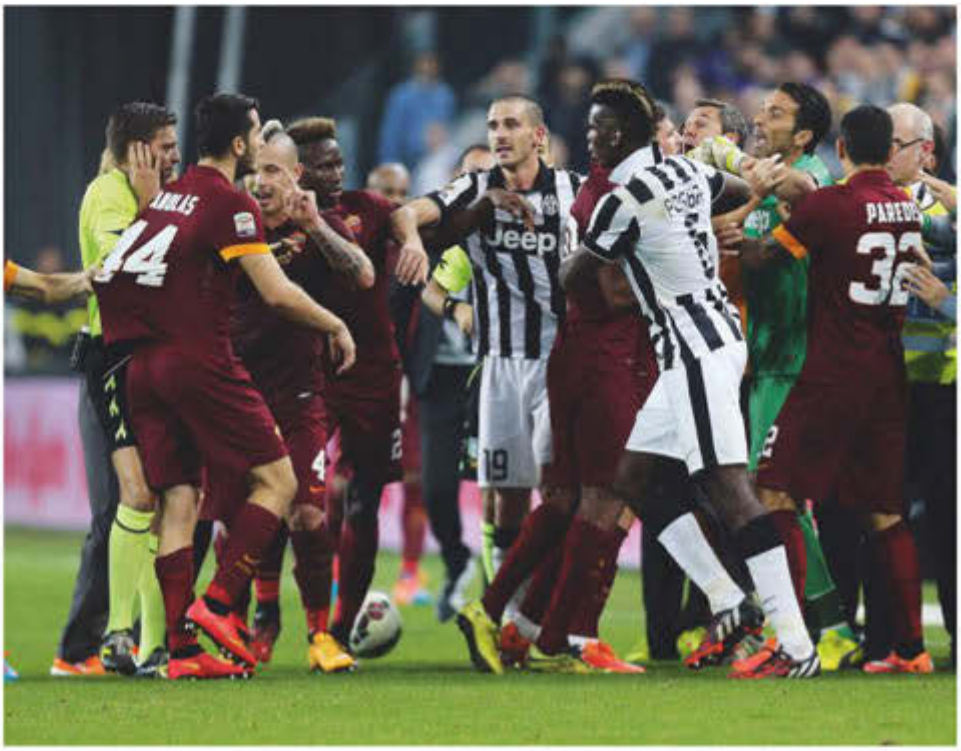
"If Juventus managed to make the Final of the Champions League, and Fiorentina and Napoli the semi-finals of the Europa League, that was no thanks to the '*sistema Italia*' but rather thanks only to the good work of the three clubs involved," said Agnelli. "The [Italian] federation needs to develop a sports vision of the game and to hand the game back to the players, in the way that UEFA manages to do.

"There is a total lack of medium- and long-term vision. If Italian football is to reclaim a leading role at international level, then we are talking about a five-to-10-year plan. No one has the magic wand that can change things from one day to the next, not [Carlo] Tavecchio [president of the Italian Football Federation] nor Giancarlo Abete [the previous president].

"There needs to be a shared vision

> "Their stadium is their best signing every season"
>
> Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani is envious of the Juventus Stadium which, uniquely for Italy, is wholly owned by the club and generally sold out

Beaten...Juve's best was not good enough to overcome Barcelona in Berlin



Storm...a controversial victory over Roma saw further accusations from some quarters of a pro-Juventus bias within the game

among the football stakeholders. As of now, the number one Italian problem concerns the stadia. There's got to be a joint effort to modernise the stadia. Then, after that, I would like the federation to have some sort of real sports plan."

Agnelli went on to suggest his vision of the future, to some extent, was shared by two outsiders within the Italian system, namely Roma's American president, James Pallotta, and Internazionale's Indonesian chief, Erick Thohir.

In other words, if for one second anyone had been tempted to think that the good showing by its clubs in Europe throughout the season means that Italian football is seriously on the mend, then they had clearly understood nothing. And Agnelli has a point.

An Italian season which began with Tavecchio calling African footballers "banana eaters", and which ended with the amateur league president Felice Belloli suggesting that women's football

Proud...Allegri

was a matter for "a bunch of lesbians", clearly has deep-rooted problems with its ruling class.

When it came to his reflections on the defeat by Barca, Agnelli offered a lucid analysis of the game, arguing that Juventus had every reason to be proud of their highly successful season, saying: "The team's performance in Berlin is a great starting point for the future.

"We made a game of it with Barcelona in a match in which they scored an early goal that would have killed off most other teams. Instead, we came back, we scored an equaliser and we played 20 minutes of fantastic football in a game that we could have won – even if, in the end, Barcelona scored a counter-attacking goal that finished off the match."

Acknowledging that many people had underlined how the defeat represented Juve's eighth loss in a Champions Cup/League Final, Agnelli suggested that this time Juventus had nothing to regret. The defeats by Hamburg (1983), Borussia Dortmund (1997) and Milan (2003) had hurt a great deal more, he said.

Not surprisingly, he had special words of

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Felipe Anderson *(Lazio)*
The 22-year-old Brazilian midfielder came of age in his second season in Serie A, with his goals playing a crucial role in Lazio qualifying for the Champions League. Currently has a five-year contract with the club.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Daniele Rugani *(Empoli)*
The centre-back will return to Juventus this summer after a spell on loan at Empoli. Voted Serie B's player of the season when they were promoted and outstanding again as they secured another term in the top flight.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Stefano Pioli *(Lazio)*
Massimiliano Allegri may have won the domestic double and reached the Champions League Final with Juventus, but the 49-year-old deserves the accolade for his achievements with the *Biancocelesti*.

CUP WINNERS
Victory in the Final was a fitting end to a season of **Juventus** domestic dominance, but Lazio will argue that, with a little luck, they could have won this one. With the score at 1-1 midway through the second half, Lazio's Filip Dordevic managed to hit both posts with a powerful shot.

RELEGATED
Financial meltdown saw **Parma** deducted seven points as they dropped out of the top flight, along with **Cagliari** and **Cesena**.

PROMOTED
Bologna won the play-off to return to Serie A after just one year, and they will be joined by debutants **Carpi** and **Frosinone**.

praise for club coach Massimiliano Allegri. Recalling the "very difficult moment" at which the coach had taken over the team last summer – within 24 hours of the shock resignation of predecessor, Antonio Conte – Agnelli expressed his admiration for the "impeccable manner" in which Allegri had synchronised with a team that "was already very strong".

If Agnelli had every reason to sound proud of what his team had achieved this season, even he would have to admit that, on the home front, no side provided any real opposition. Roma, Napoli and Milan, the three teams which had finished second to Juventus in the last three seasons, never really threatened.

Two years ago, under newly appointed French coach Rudi Garcia, Roma made a fantastic start to the season, winning 10 in a row. This year had essentially "blown up" by the end of October.

Once again, Garcia's team made a terrific start, playing attacking football and winning their first five league games as well as trouncing CSKA Moscow 5-1 and drawing 1-1 away to Manchester City in September's Champions League games. Then two problems, in the shape of Juventus and Bayern Munich, appeared on the Roma horizon.

> "For seven months, they took us for idiots"
> **Antonio Cassano, who walked away from bankruptcy-bound Parma after going several months without being paid**

In early October Juventus beat Roma 3-2 in Turin in a bitterly disputed contest which saw three penalties, two sendings-off and a hotly disputed winning goal.

The big controversy came in the 86th minute when Juve's central defender Leonardo Bonucci scored the winner with a long-range shot, following sustained Juventus pressure. The problem was that, as Bonucci struck the winning goal, Juve midfielder Arturo Vidal was clearly standing in an offside position, seemingly blocking the vision of Roma keeper Lukasz Skorupski. While it was probably a valid goal, Vidal's position was enough to fuel all the worst Roma suspicions.

Two weeks later, Roma played host to Bayern Munich and, unintimidated by the German champions' formidable reputation and good form, Garcia set up his side to "mix it" with the visitors, playing his usual attacking game.

Roma dreams and expectations lasted less than 10 minutes and by half-time they were 5-0 down, with Bayern eventually winning 7-1.

It is at least arguable that Roma never really recovered, psychologically, from that drubbing. Injuries to players like Dutch midfielder Kevin Strootman and the prolonged absence of Ivory Coast striker Gervinho at the African Nations Cup in January clearly did not help, but the Bayern rout would appear to have burned a serious hole in the Roma psyche.

In a sense, it came as little surprise that, from that point on, Roma's European campaign fizzled out. They were eliminated from the Champions League with a 2-0 home loss to Manchester City in their last group game and then knocked out of the Europa League in March when beaten 3-0 by Fiorentina, again at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome. The fact that Roma went on to end the season in second place, fully 17 points behind Juventus, simply serves to underline just how totally Juve dominated Serie A.

Napoli, who might have been considered possible pretenders to the throne, managed to play themselves out

Finale...Lazio (in purple) beat Napoli to a Champions League spot on the last day

SERIE A 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JUVENTUS	38	26	9	3	72	24	87
ROMA	38	19	13	6	54	31	70
LAZIO	38	21	6	11	71	38	69
FIORENTINA	38	18	10	10	61	46	64
NAPOLI	38	18	9	11	70	54	63
GENOA	38	16	11	11	62	47	59
SAMPDORIA	38	13	17	8	48	42	56
INTER	38	14	13	11	59	48	55
TORINO	38	14	12	12	48	45	54
MILAN	38	13	13	12	56	50	52
PALERMO	38	12	13	13	53	55	49
SASSUOLO	38	12	13	13	49	57	49
VERONA	38	11	13	14	49	65	46
CHIEVO	38	10	13	15	28	41	43
EMPOLI	38	8	18	12	46	52	42
UDINESE	38	10	11	17	43	56	41
ATALANTA	38	7	16	15	38	57	37
CAGLIARI	38	8	10	20	48	68	34
CESENA	38	4	12	22	36	73	24
PARMA[1]	38	6	8	24	33	75	19

[1] *Deducted 7pts for failing to pay players and other breaches of regulations*

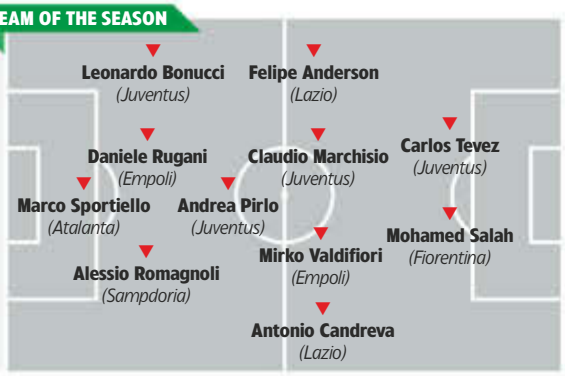
TOP GOALSCORERS

Mauro Icardi *(Internazionale)*	*22 goals*
Luca Toni *(Verona)*	*22 goals*
Carlos Tevez *(Juventus)*	*20 goals*
Gonzalo Higuain *(Napoli)*	*18 goals*
Jeremy Menez *(Milan)*	*16 goals*

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Juventus and **Roma** go directly into the Champions League group stage, while **Lazio** start in the play-off round. **Fiorentina** and **Napoli** are in the Europa League group phase, with **Sampdoria** having to play in the third qualifying round.

Euro missions... Sampdoria (in whte) and Fiorentina

TEAM OF THE SEASON



Fallen giants...Inter (in blue) and Milan both had seasons to forget

of contention even earlier. Arguably, they too never fully recovered from a disastrous start to the season which saw them beaten in the August qualifying round of the Champions League by a modest Athletic Bilbao side.

In the end, Napoli partly rehabilitated their season by getting to the semi-finals of the Europa League, where they went out to Ukrainian side Dnipro. That defeat and fifth place in Serie A – thanks to a last-day 4-2 loss to Lazio in a Champions League decider – perhaps persuaded owner Aurelio De Laurentiis that the time had come to part with Spanish coach Rafa Benitez, who was replaced by Naples-born Maurizio Sarri of Empoli.

And what of the miserable season experienced by Milan and Inter, who finished out of Europe in 10th and eighth place respectively?

Having offloaded one former player turned coach in Clarence Seedorf at the end of last season, Milan chose another in Pippo Inzaghi for this year. However, with the results clearly not satisfying the club's owner Silvio Berlusconi, it was hardly surprising that he chose to shake up things at the end of the campaign by engaging Sampdoria coach Sinisa Mihajlovic, attempting to recall former Milan player, Zlatan Ibrahimovic from Paris Saint-Germain and, arguably most importantly, considering a sale of a 48 per cent shareholding in the club to Thai businessman Bee Taechaubol.

Inter owner Thohir, did his shaking up earlier in the season, replacing Walter Mazzari with former Manchester City coach Roberto Mancini in November in a futile attempt to get back onto a Champions League qualifying course. So far the move has not worked, but the hope is that the team will be more competitive next term when "moulded" along Mancini lines.

One final note: in May, Italian football was hit by another betting/match-fixing scandal when state attorneys in Catanzaro, the capital of the Calabria region, arrested more than 50 people – players, coaches and administrators – suspected of involvement in a scam which saw the fixing of games in Lega Pro and Serie D (the third, fourth and fifth divisions).

As previously suggested, all is not well in the garden of Italian football. **WS**

SERIE A RESULTS 2014-15: THE COMPLETE RECORD

Aug 30, 2014 **Chievo 0**
Juventus 1 (Biraghi og 6) Att: 25,000

Roma 2 (Nainggolan 28, Gervinho 90+3)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 44,353

Aug 31 **Atalanta 0**
Verona 0 Att: 14,925

Cesena 1 (Rodriguez 38)
Parma 0 Att: 14,415

Genoa 1 (Pinilla 40)
Napoli 2 (Callejon 3, De Guzman 90+5) Att: 21,963

Milan 3 (Honda 7, Muntari 56, Menez pen 64)
Lazio 1 (Alex og 67) Att: 36,674

Palermo 1 (Dybala 7)
Sampdoria 1 (Gastaldello 90+1) Att: 17,064

Sassuolo 1 (Zaza 42)
Cagliari 1 (Sau 44) Att: 11,292

Torino 0
Internazionale 0 Att: 25,824

Udinese 2 (Di Natale 57, 62)
Empoli 0 Att: 7,889

Sep 13 **Empoli 0**
Roma 1 (Sepe og 45+1) Att: 11,113

Juventus 2 (Tevez 8, Marchisio 75)
Udinese 0 Att: 38,217

Sep 14 **Cagliari 1** (Cossu 85)
Atalanta 2 (Estigarribia 4, Boakye 67) Att: 9,100

Fiorentina 0
Genoa 0 Att: 34,058

Internazionale 7 (Icardi 4, 30, 53, Kovacic 21, Osvaldo 43, 72, Guarin 74)
Sassuolo 0 Att: 34,549

Lazio 3 (Candreva 19, Parolo 56, Mauri 90)
Cesena 0 Att: 31,200

Napoli 0
Chievo 1 (Lopez 49) Att: 35,251

Parma 4 (Cassano 27, Felipe 51, Lucarelli 73, De Sciglio og 89)
Milan 5 (Bonaventura 25, Honda 37, Menez pen 45, 79, De Jong 68) Att: 14,264

Sampdoria 2 (Gabbiadini 34, Okaka 79)
Torino 0 Att: 21,180

Sep 15 **Verona 2** (Toni pen 41, Pisano og 77)
Palermo 1 (Vazquez 18) Att: 18,304

Sep 20 **Cesena 2** (Marilungo 30, Defrel 32)
Empoli 2 (Tavano pen 55, Rugani 72) Att: 14,093

Milan 0
Juventus 1 (Tevez 71) Att: 78,681

Sep 21 **Atalanta 0**
Fiorentina 1 (Kurtic 58) Att: 15,406

Chievo 2 (Izco 4, Paloschi 82)
Parma 3 (Cassano 65, 77, Coda 75) Att: 5,000

Genoa 1 (Pinilla 87)
Lazio 0 Att: 18,009

Feast...Parma and Milan shared nine goals

Palermo 1 (Vazquez 3)
Internazionale 1 (Kovacic 42) Att: 18,292

Roma 2 (Destro 11, Florenzi 13)
Cagliari 0 Att: 40,977

Sassuolo 0
Sampdoria 0 Att: 12,004

Torino 0
Verona 1 (Ionita 66) Att: 13,405

Udinese 1 (Danilo 70)
Napoli 0 Att: 8,833

Sep 23 **Empoli 2** (Tonelli 13, Pucciarelli 21)
Milan 2 (Fernando Torres 43, Honda 57) Att: 12,619

Sep 24 **Cagliari 1** (Cossu 11)
Torino 2 (Glik 21, Quagliarella 29) Att: 9,400

Fiorentina 0
Sassuolo 0 Att: 28,175

Internazionale 2 (Osvaldo 40, Hernanes 87)
Atalanta 0 Att: 29,535

Juventus 3 (Vidal pen 18, 64, Lichtsteiner 85)
Cesena 0 Att: 36,027

Napoli 3 (Koulibaly 2, Zapata 11, Callejon 45+1)
Palermo 3 (Belotti 18, 61, Vazquez 24) Att: 18,521

Parma 1 (De Ceglie 56)
Roma 2 (Ljajic 27, Pjanic 88) Att: 12,657

Sampdoria 2 (Gastaldello 45, Romagnoli 80)
Chievo 1 (Paloschi 90) Att: 19,346

Verona 2 (Tachtsidis 52, Ionita 64)
Genoa 2 (Matri 34, 48) Att: 16,785

Sep 25 **Lazio 0**
Udinese 1 (Thereau 26) Att: 26,919

Sep 27 **Atalanta 0**
Juventus 3 (Tevez 35, 59, Morata 83) Att: 22,074

Roma 2 (Florenzi 75, Destro 86)
Verona 0 Att: 40,432

Sep 28 **Cesena 1** (Succi 10)
Milan 1 (Rami 20) Att: 22,027

Chievo 1 (Meggiorini 50)
Empoli 1 (Pucciarelli 59) Att: 6,000

Genoa 0
Sampdoria 1 (Gabbiadini 75) Att: 29,800

Internazionale 1 (Osvaldo 18)
Cagliari 4 (Sau 10, Ekdal 29, 34, 44) Att: 36,925

Sassuolo 0
Napoli 1 (Callejon 28) Att: 13,935

Torino 1 (Quagliarella 62)
Fiorentina 1 (Babacar 78) Att: 15,134

Sep 29 **Palermo 0**
Lazio 4 (Djordjevic 45, 75, 83, Parolo 90+3) Att: 17,087

Udinese 4 (Di Natale 28, 45, Heurtaux 58, Thereau 84)
Parma 2 (Mauri 22, Cassano pen 45+4) Att: 8,652

Oct 4 **Milan 2** (Muntari 55, Honda 78)
Chievo 0 Att: 34,601

Verona 1 (Tachtsidis 89)
Cagliari 0 Att: 17,813

Oct 5 **Empoli 3** (Maccarone 4, Tonelli 33, Pucciarelli 63)
Palermo 0 Att: 7,504

Fiorentina 3 (Babacar 7, Cuadrado 19, Tomovic 76)
Internazionale 0 Att: 34,279

KEY GAME
Juventus 3 (Tevez pen 27, pen 45+3, Bonucci 86)
Roma 2 (Totti pen 32, Iturbe 44) Att: 39,102
In a clash of the league's top two teams, the champions snatch a late victory thanks to Leonardo Bonucci's controversial volley.

Lazio 3 (Mauri 9, Djordjevic 25, Candreva 35)
Sassuolo 2 (Berardi 26, pen 51) Att: 29,381

Agony...Napoli keepeer Rafael is beaten by a last-gasp header from Hernanes as Internazionale salvage a 2-2 draw

Napoli 2 (Insigne 55, Callejon 72)
Torino 1 (Quagliarella 14) Att: 30,586

Parma 1 (Coda 66)
Genoa 2 (Perotti 53, Matri 90+3) Att: 11,898

Sampdoria 1 (Gabbiadini 35)
Atalanta 0 Att: 20,050

Udinese 1 (Bruno Fernandes 62)
Cesena 1 (Cascione pen 90+2) Att: 8,887

Oct 18 **Roma 3** (Destro 5, Ljajic 25, Totti pen 33)
Chievo 0 Att: 41,522

Sassuolo 1 (Zaza 13)
Juventus 1 (Pogba 19) Att: 21,584

Oct 19 **Atalanta 1** (Boakye 90)
Parma 0 Att: 14,944

Cagliari 2 (Avelar pen 59, Sau 77)
Sampdoria 2 (Gabbiadini 28, Obiang 39) Att: 9,426

Fiorentina 0
Lazio 2 (Djordjevic 35, Lulic 90+2) Att: 30,967

Internazionale 2 (Guarin 82, Hernanes 90+1)
Napoli 2 (Callejon 79, 90) Att: 40,383

Palermo 2 (Dybala 33, Gonzalez 90+1)
Cesena 1 (Rodriguez pen 61) Att: 14,780

Torino 1 (Quagliarella 62)
Udinese 0 Att: 13,434

Verona 1 (Lopez 87)
Milan 3 (Rafael Marques og 21, Honda 27, 56) Att: 27,125

Oct 20 **Genoa 1** (Bertolacci 14)
Empoli 1 (Tonelli 77) Att: 17,843

Oct 25 **Empoli 0**
Cagliari 4 (Sau 31, Avelar 37, pen 38, Ekdal 45+1) Att: 8,121

Parma 1 (Cassano 78)
Sassuolo 3 (Floccari 20, Acerbi 24, Taider 52) Att: 11,313

Sampdoria 0
Roma 0 Att: 23,548

Oct 26 **Cesena 0**
Internazionale 1 (Icardi pen 32) Att: 22,917

Chievo 1 (Zukanovic 36)
Genoa 2 (Matri 72, Pinilla 84) Att: 10,000

Juventus 2 (Vidal 32, Llorente 64)
Palermo 0 Att: 38,891

Lazio 2 (Biglia 15, Klose 60)
Torino 1 (Farnerud 53) Att: 34,782

Milan 1 (De Jong 25)
Fiorentina 1 (Ilicic 64) Att: 38,384

Napoli 6 (Hamsik 44, 58, Higuain 68, 84, pen 90, Callejon 76)
Verona 2 (Hallfredsson 1, Lopez 67) Att: 25,992

Udinese 2 (Di Natale 6, Thereau 36)
Atalanta 0 Att: 8,300

Oct 28 **Sassuolo 3** (Missiroli 56, Floccari 61, Berardi 73)
Empoli 1 (Croce 18) Att: 10,710

Oct 29 **Atalanta 1** (Denis 57)
Napoli 1 (Higuain 86) Att: 14,882

Cagliari 1 (Ibarbo 24)
Milan 1 (Bonaventura 34) Att: 16,000

Fiorentina 3 (Babacar 44, 70, Borja Valero 81)
Udinese 0 Att: 27,016

Genoa 1 (Antonini 90+4)
Juventus 0 Att: 21,971

Internazionale 1 (Icardi pen 90)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 28,057

Palermo 1 (Rigoni 81)
Chievo 0 Att: 13,985

Roma 2 (Destro 9, De Rossi 81)
Cesena 0 Att: 34,044

Torino 1 (Darmian 10)
Parma 0 Att: 12,648

Oct 30 **Verona 1** (Toni pen 69)
Lazio 1 (Lulic 43) Att: 17,760

Nov 1 **Empoli 0**
Juventus 2 (Pirlo 61, Morata 72) Att: 14,698

Napoli 2 (Higuain 3, Callejon 85)
Roma 0 Att: 30,157

Parma 2 (De Ceglie 5, 76)
Internazionale 0 Att: 13,539

Nov 2 **Chievo 0**
Sassuolo 0 Att: 5,000

Milan 0
Palermo 2 (Zapata og 23, Dybala 26) Att: 28,272

Sampdoria 3 (Palombo pen 27, Rizzo 43, Eder 78)
Fiorentina 1 (Savic 45) Att: 20,822

Torino 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 13,489

Udinese 2 (Di Natale 1, Widmer 41)
Genoa 4 (Marchese 22, Iago Falque 24, Matri 54, Kucka 87) Att: 8,701

Nov 3 **Cesena 1** (Defrel 22)
Verona 1 (Gomez Taleb 77) Att: 15,375

Lazio 4 (Mauri 7, Klose 25, 26, Ederson 90+2)
Cagliari 2 (Braafheid og 48, Joao Pedro 84) Att: 32,569

Nov 8 **Sampdoria 2** (Okaka 45+1, Eder 51)
Milan 2 (El Shaarawy 10, Menez pen 65) Att: 23,893

Sassuolo 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 10,776

Nov 9 **Cagliari 1** (Diego Farias 16)
Genoa 1 (Rossettini og 53) Att: 8,000

Chievo 2 (Pellissier 48, 90)
Cesena 1 (Djuric 88) Att: 5,000

Empoli 2 (Barba 52, Maccarone 55)
Lazio 1 (Djordjevic 67) Att: 8,153

Fiorentina 0
Napoli 1 (Higuain 62) Att: 31,987

Internazionale 2 (Icardi 18, 48)
Verona 2 (Toni 10, Lopez 89) Att: 27,314

Juventus 7 (Llorente 23, 36, Lichtsteiner 29, Tevez 50, 58, Morata 76, 88)
Parma 0 Att: 38,816

Palermo 1 (Dybala pen 42)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 5) Att: 15,658

Roma 3 (Torosidis 8, Keita 27, Ljajic 58)
Torino 0 Att: 35,770

Nov 22 **Atalanta 1** (Moralez 1)
Roma 2 (Ljajic 23, Nainggolan 42) Att: 17,286

Lazio 0
Juventus 3 (Pogba 25, 64, Tevez 55) Att: 55,000

Nov 23 **Cesena 1** (Lucchini 60)
Sampdoria 1 (Nica og 77) Att: 16,184

Milan 1 (Menez 23)
Internazionale 1 (Obi 61) Att: 79,173

Napoli 3 (Higuain 11, Inler 30, De Guzman 62)
Cagliari 3 (Ibarbo 38, Diego Farias 47, 68) Att: 45,413

Parma 0
Empoli 2 (Vecino 45+1, Tavano 56) Att: 10,625

Torino 0
Sassuolo 1 (Floro Flores 87) Att: 15,528

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 45+1)
Chievo 1 (Radovanovic 74) Att: 8,544

Verona 1 (Lopez 39)
Fiorentina 2 (Rodriguez 16, Cuadrado 62) Att: 21,553

Nov 24 **Genoa 1** (Antonelli 30)
Palermo 1 (Dybala 7) Att: 18,588

Nov 29 **Chievo 0**
Lazio 0 Att: 6,000

Sassuolo 2 (Sansone 50, Taider 78)
Verona 1 (Moras 7) Att: 12,234

Nov 30 **Cagliari 0**
Fiorentina 4 (Fernandez 17, 56, Gomez 70, Cuadrado 75) Att: 11,000

Cesena 0
Genoa 3 (Matri 5, Antonelli 7, Volta og 43) Att: 14,650

Empoli 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 6,938

Juventus 2 (Vidal pen 15, Pirlo 90+3)
Torino 1 (Bruno Peres 22) Att: 38,899

Milan 2 (Menez pen 65, 75)
Udinese 0 Att: 36,170

Palermo 2 (Dybala 37, Barreto 73)
Parma 1 (Palladino 41) Att: 14,444

Roma 4 (Gervinho 21, Holebas 47, Pjanic 60, 90+2)
Internazionale 2 (Ranocchia 36, Osvaldo 57) Att: 41,701

Dec 1 **Sampdoria 1** (Eder 57)
Napoli 1 (Zapata 90+2) Att: 21,033

Dec 5 **Fiorentina 0**
Juventus 0 Att: 38,000

Dec 6 **Roma 2** (Ljajic pen 78, 90+3)
Sassuolo 2 (Zaza 16, 18) Att: 38,787

Torino 2 (Martinez 35, Glik 63)
Palermo 2 (Rigoni 16, Dybala 44) Att: 13,974

Dec 7 **Atalanta 3** (Benalouane 45+1, Stendardo 50, Moralez 52)
Cesena 2 (Defrel 31, 43) Att: 12,495

Genoa 1 (Antonelli 32)
Milan 0 Att: 21,319

Internazionale 1 (Icardi 44)
Udinese 2 (Bruno Fernandes 60, Thereau 71) Att: 34,912

Napoli 2 (Zapata 67, De Guzman 72)
Empoli 2 (Verdi 19, Rugani 53) Att: 30,128

Parma 1 (Palladino 45)
Lazio 2 (Mauri 45+3, Felipe Anderson 59) Att: 10,778

Dec 8 **Cagliari 0**
Chievo 2 (Meggiorini 4, Paloschi 9) Att: 12,000

Verona 1 (Toni 37)
Sampdoria 3 (Eder pen 28, Okaka 57, Gabbiadini 62) Att: 18,390

Dec 13 **Lazio 3** (Mauri 51, 71, Lulic 81)
Atalanta 0 Att: 24,477

Palermo 2 (Rigoni 3, Belotti 90+3)
Sassuolo 1 (Pavoletti 85) Att: 21,086

Dec 14 **Cesena 1** (Savic og 60)
Fiorentina 4 (Borja Valero 44, Savic 47, Rodriguez 79, El Hamdaoui 90+3) Att: 16,275

Genoa 0
Roma 1 (Nainggolan 40) Att: 20,055

Juventus 1 (Evra 12)
Sampdoria 1 (Gabbiadini 51) Att: 39,089

Milan 2 (Menez 6, Bonaventura 52)
Napoli 0 Att: 35,867

Parma 0
Cagliari 0 Att: 10,646

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 31)
Verona 2 (Toni 45+1, Christodoulopoulos 46) Att: 8,247

Dec 15 **Chievo 0**
Internazionale 2 (Kovacic 19, Ranocchia 55) Att: 10,000

Empoli 0
Torino 0 Att: 7,796

Dec 18 **Cagliari 1** (Rossettini 65)
Juventus 3 (Tevez 3, Vidal 15, Llorente 50) Att: 16,074

Shock...Empoli see off Lazio in November

Napoli 2 (Zapata 19, Mertens pen 30)
Parma 0 Att: 20,799

Dec 20 **Roma 0**
Milan 0 Att: 46,620

Sassuolo 1 (Zaza pen 76)
Cesena 1 (Ze Eduardo 90+4) Att: 11,079

Dec 21 **Atalanta 3** (Denis pen 40, 76, Moralez 55)
Palermo 3 (Rigoni 6, Vazquez 16, 45+1) Att: 12,344

Fiorentina 1 (Vargas 44)
Empoli 1 (Tonelli 57) Att: 34,162

Internazionale 2 (Kovacic 66, Palacio 80)
Lazio 2 (Felipe Anderson 2, 37) Att: 36,344

Sampdoria 2 (Obiang 15, Gabbiadini 60)
Udinese 2 (Geijo 31, Danilo 34) Att: 21,413

Torino 2 (Glik 52, 63)
Genoa 1 (Iago Falque 42) Att: 15,611

Verona 0
Chievo 1 (Paloschi 81) Att: 22,927

Jan 5, 2015 **Lazio 3** (Parolo 38, Felipe Anderson 41, Djordjevic 66)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 31,322

Spectacular... Palermo's Andrea Belotti attempts a bicycle kick in the 4-3 defeat by Fiorentina

Jan 6 **Cesena 1** (Brienza 75)
Napoli 4 (Callejon 29, Higuain 41, 72, Capelli og 64) Att: 16,275

Chievo 0
Torino 0 Att: 7,000

Empoli 0
Verona 0 Att: 7,705

Genoa 2 (Iago Falque pen 51, Matri 69)
Atalanta 2 (Zappacosta 37, Moralez 49) Att: 18,415

Juventus 1 (Tevez 5)
Internazionale 1 (Icardi 64) Att: 38,791

Milan 1 (Poli 9)
Sassuolo 2 (Sansone 28, Zaza 67) Att: 35,034

Palermo 5 (Morganella 5, Munoz 10, Dybala pen 33, 72, Barreto 85)
Cagliari 0 Att: 18,268

Parma 1 (Costa 11)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 12,641

Udinese 0
Roma 1 (Astori 17) Att: 10,870

Jan 10 **Sassuolo 1** (Zaza 15)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 26) Att: 11,221

Torino 1 (Glik 81)
Milan 1 (Menez pen 3) Att: 14,350

Jan 11 **Atalanta 1** (Zappacosta 72)
Chievo 1 (Lazarevic 90) Att: 11,876

Cagliari 2 (Joao Pedro 11, Donsah 27)
Cesena 1 (Brienza 89) Att: 10,000

Fiorentina 4 (Pasqual 20, Basanta 51, Cuadrado 64, Joaquin 74)
Palermo 3 (Quaison 59, 61, Belotti pen 81) Att: 26,376

Internazionale 3 (Palacio 12, Icardi 39, Vidic 88)
Genoa 1 (Izzo 85) Att: 37,525

Napoli 1 (Britos 64)
Juventus 3 (Pogba 29, Caceres 69, Vidal 90+4) Att: 53,006

KEY GAME

Roma 2 (Totti 48, 64)
Lazio 2 (Mauri 25, Felipe Anderson 29) Att: 51,252

Francesco Totti rescues a point with two second-half goals in the Rome derby and celebrates by taking a selfie with fans.

Sampdoria 1 (Eder 49)
Empoli 0 Att: 19,931

Verona 3 (Sala 39, Toni 72, Valoti 90+1)
Parma 1 (Lodi 63) Att: 15,915

Jan 17 **Empoli 0**
Internazionale 0 Att: 13,449

Palermo 1 (Dybala 2)
Roma 1 (Destro 54) Att: 15,397

Jan 18 **Cesena 2** (Brienza pen 43, pen 85)
Torino 3 (Benassi 20, Quagliarella 22, Lopez 87) Att: 14,910

Chievo 1 (Pellissier 72)
Fiorentina 2 (Rodriguez 35, Babacar 90+4) Att: 10,000

Genoa 3 (Iago Falque 25, Fetfatzidis 53, pen 90+2)
Sassuolo 3 (Berardi pen 19, 69, Missiroli 50) Att: 17,822

Juventus 4 (Pogba 3, Tevez 7, 74, Pereyra 66)
Verona 0 Att: 36,243

Lazio 0
Napoli 1 (Higuain 18) Att: 26,857

Milan 0
Atalanta 1 (Denis 33) Att: 27,836

Parma 0
Sampdoria 2 (Bergessio 54, Soriano 70) Att: 14,130

Udinese 2 (Allan 55, Thereau 56)
Cagliari 2 (Joao Pedro 39, Avelar pen 90+1) Att: 9,366

Jan 24 **Cagliari 2** (Rossettini 20, Cop 79)
Sassuolo 1 (Rossettini og 76) Att: 14,000

Lazio 3 (Parolo 47, 81, Klose 51)
Milan 1 (Menez 4) Att: 32,228

Jan 25 **Fiorentina 1** (Gomez 19)
Roma 1 (Ljajic 49) Att: 28,899

Internazionale 0
Torino 1 (Moretti 90+4) Att: 34,209

Juventus 2 (Pogba 60, Lichtsteiner 73)
Chievo 0 Att: 38,629

Parma 1 (Cascione og 76)
Cesena 2 (Pulzetti 21, Rodriguez 89) Att: 11,791

Sampdoria 1 (Eder 6)
Palermo 1 (Vazquez 48) Att: 22,023

Verona 1 (Saviola 53)
Atalanta 0 Att: 16,857

Jan 26 **Empoli 1** (Saponara pen 37)
Udinese 2 (Di Natale 19, Widmer 60) Att: 7,381

Napoli 2 (Higuain 7, pen 75)
Genoa 1 (Iago Falque 56) Att: 39,321

Jan 31 **Genoa 1** (Tatarusanu og 14)
Fiorentina 1 (Rodriguez 54) Att: 18,829

Roma 1 (Maicon 57)
Empoli 1 (Maccarone pen 39) Att: 33,621

Feb 1 **Atalanta 2** (Biava 18, Pinilla 90+4)
Cagliari 1 (Dessena 44) Att: 12,353

Cesena 2 (Defrel 60, Cataldi og 77)
Lazio 1 (Klose 87) Att: 14,818

Chievo 1 (Britos og 25)
Napoli 2 (Cesar og 18, Gabbiadini 62) Att: 15,000

Milan 3 (Menez pen 17, 57, Zaccardo 76)
Parma 1 (Nocerino 24) Att: 24,396

Palermo 2 (Dybala 18, Belotti 79)
Verona 1 (Tachtsidis 8) Att: 14,058

Sassuolo 3 (Zaza 17, Sansone 29, Berardi pen 90+3)
Internazionale 1 (Icardi 83) Att: 18,446

Torino 5 (Quagliarella 16, pen 29, 65, Amauri 75, Bruno Peres 90+3)
Sampdoria 1 (Obiang 77) Att: 14,401

Udinese 0
Juventus 0 Att: 11,241

FEB 7 **KEY GAME**
Juventus 3 (Tevez 14, Bonucci 31, Morata 65)
Milan 1 (Antonelli 28) Att: 39,015
The champions open up a 10-point lead at the top of the table after an easy win over struggling Milan, who drop to 10th.

Verona 1 (Toni 83)
Torino 3 (Martinez 32, Quagliarella pen 50, El Kaddouri 90+2) Att: 17,038

Feb 8 **Cagliari 1** (M'Poku 90+5)
Roma 2 (Ljajic 37, Paredes 85) Att: 9,961

Empoli 2 (Maccarone 30, Signorelli 57)
Cesena 0 Att: 7,586

Battling...Sassuolo's Simone Zaza (left)

Fiorentina 3 (Basanta 18, Diamanti 76, Pasqual 89)
Atalanta 2 (Zappacosta 9, Boakye 83) Att: 27,018

Internazionale 3 (Guarin 16, Icardi 65, 88)
Palermo 0 Att: 30,085

Napoli 3 (Mertens 8, Gabbiadini 21, Thereau og 59)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 27) Att: 28,773

Sampdoria 1 (Eder 9)
Sassuolo 1 (Acerbi 2) Att: 19,710

Feb 9 **Lazio 0**
Genoa 1 (Perotti pen 29) Att: 28,355

Feb 11 **Parma 0**
Chievo 1 (Zukanovic 54) Att: 10,250

Feb 14 **Palermo 3** (Lazaar 14, Vazquez 36, Rigoni 65)
Napoli 1 (Gabbiadini 82) Att: 12,784

Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 67)
Fiorentina 3 (Salah 30, Babacar 32, 62) Att: 12,816

Feb 15 **Atalanta 1** (Moralez 27)
Internazionale 4 (Shaqiri pen 2, Guarin 37, 63, Palacio 72) Att: 13,765

Cesena 2 (Djuric 17, Brienza 70)
Juventus 2 (Morata 27, Marchisio 33) Att: 23,661

Chievo 2 (Izco 2, Meggiorini 39)
Sampdoria 1 (Muriel 90+1) Att: 9,128

Genoa 5 (Agostini og 10, Niang 12, 30, Bertolacci 65, Perotti 86)
Verona 2 (Toni 20, 57) Att: 17,823

Milan 1 (Destro 40)
Empoli 1 (Maccarone 68) Att: 27,170

Roma 0
Parma 0 Att: 37,539

Torino 1 (El Kaddouri 35)
Cagliari 1 (Donsah 34) Att: 15,554

Udinese 0
Lazio 1 (Candreva pen 23) Att: 8,283

Feb 20 **Juventus 2** (Llorente 39, Pirlo 45)
Atalanta 1 (Migliaccio 25) Att: 37,195

Feb 22 **Empoli 3** (Rugani 22, Maccarone 46, 67)
Chievo 0 Att: 7,338

Fiorentina 1 (Salah 85)
Torino 1 (Vives 87) Att: 27,088

Lazio 2 (Mauri 33, Candreva 78)
Palermo 1 (Dybala 26) Att: 27,186

Milan 2 (Bonaventura 22, Pazzini pen 90)
Cesena 0 Att: 27,958

Verona 1 (Keita og 38)
Roma 1 (Totti 26) Att: 17,953

Feb 23 **Cagliari 1** (Carrizo og 74)
Internazionale 2 (Kovacic 47, Icardi 68) Att: 16,000

Napoli 2 (Zapata 61, Hamsik 70)
Sassuolo 0 Att: 46,925

Feb 24 **Sampdoria 1** (Eder 19)
Genoa 1 (Iago Falque 17) Att: 30,595

Feb 28 **Chievo 0**
Milan 0 Att: 16,128

Mar 1 **Atalanta 1** (Stendardo 16)
Sampdoria 2 (Muriel 68, Okaka 81) Att: 16,180

Cagliari 1 (Conti 90)
Verona 2 (Toni 9, Gomez Taleb 56) Att: 14,000

Cesena 1 (Rodriguez 76)
Udinese 0 Att: 14,794

Internazionale 0
Fiorentina 1 (Salah 55) Att: 39,310

Palermo 0
Empoli 0 Att: 22,352

Sassuolo 0
Lazio 3 (Felipe Anderson 45, Klose 70, Parolo 77) Att: 11,807

Torino 1 (Glik 68)
Napoli 0 Att: 20,274

MAR 2 **KEY GAME**
Roma 1 (Keita 78)
Juventus 1 (Tevez 64) Att: 55,651
Juve take a major step towards retaining the title with a draw against 10-man Roma.

Mar 7 **Milan 2** (Menez pen 41, Tachtsidis og 47)
Verona 2 (Toni pen 18, Lopez 90+5) Att: 29,510

Sampdoria 2 (De Silvestri 33, Eto'o 72)
Cagliari 0 Att: 21,127

Mar 8 **Cesena 0**
Palermo 0 Att: 15,071

Chievo 0
Roma 0 Att: 15,128

Empoli 1 (Barba 66)
Genoa 1 (Niang 27) Att: 10,392

Napoli 2 (Hamsik 51, Higuain 63)
Internazionale 2 (Palacio 72, Icardi pen 87) Att: 36,646

Torino 0
Lazio 2 (Felipe Anderson 71, 78) Att: 12,932

Mar 21 **Chievo 1** (Paloschi 35)
Palermo 0 Att: 9,128

Milan 3 (Menez 21, pen 78, Mexes 49)
Cagliari 1 (Diego Farias 47) Att: 30,748

Mar 22 **Cesena 0**
Roma 1 (De Rossi 41) Att: 16,575

Empoli 3 (Saponara 46, 60, Mchedlidze 59)
Sassuolo 1 (Rugani og 49) Att: 7,703

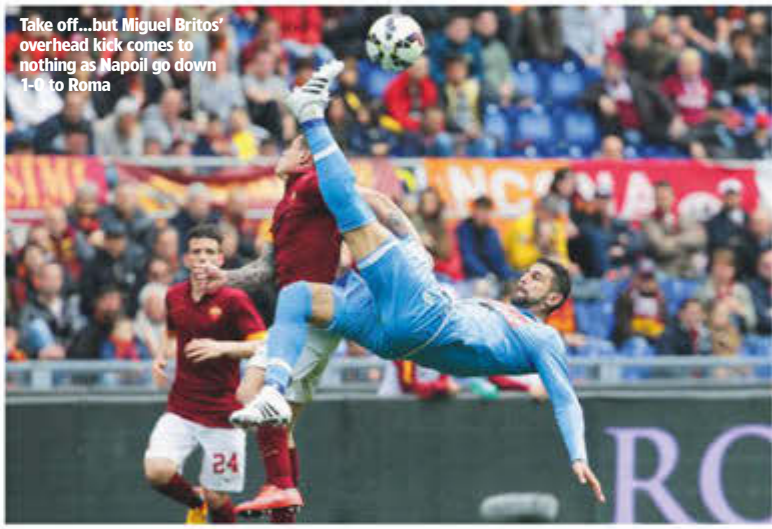
Juventus 1 (Tevez 25)
Genoa 0 Att: 39,919

Lazio 2 (Felipe Anderson 4, Candreva 45+2)
Verona 0 Att: 40,119

Napoli 1 (Zapata 89)
Atalanta 1 (Pinilla 72) Att: 30,820

Parma 0
Torino 2 (Lopez 19, Basha 73) Att: 10,145

Sampdoria 1 (Eder 65)
Internazionale 0 Att: 22,865


Take off...but Miguel Britos' overhead kick comes to nothing as Napoil go down 1-0 to Roma

Parma 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 10,448

Udinese 3 (Di Natale 17, Molinaro og 25, Wague 49)
Torino 2 (Quagliarella 15, Benassi 69) Att: 8,519

Mar 9 **Juventus 1** (Pogba 82)
Sassuolo 0 Att: 37,506

Lazio 4 (Biglia 6, Candreva pen 65, Klose 75, 85)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 33,025

Mar 14 **Cagliari 1** (Joao Pedro 20)
Empoli 1 (Vecino 90+3) Att: 10,059

Palermo 0
Juventus 1 (Morata 70) Att: 29,850

Mar 15 **Atalanta 0**
Udinese 0 Att: 14,073

Genoa 0
Chievo 2 (Paloschi 49, 68) Att: 17,630

Internazionale 1 (Palacio 48)
Cesena 1 (Defrel 30) Att: 24,589

Sassuolo 4 (Sansone 24, 36, Berardi pen 61, Missiroli 65)
Parma 1 (Lila 26) Att: 10,525

Verona 2 (Toni 7, 51)
Napoli 0 Att: 22,468

Mar 16 **Fiorentina 2** (Rodriguez 83, Joaquin 89)
Milan 1 (Destro 56) Att: 31,432

Roma 0
Sampdoria 2 (De Silvestri 60, Muriel 78) Att: 33,250

Udinese 2 (Wague 15, Kone 62)
Fiorentina 2 (Gomez 50, 53) Att: 9,000

Apr 4 **Atalanta 1** (Pinilla 74)
Torino 2 (Quagliarella 20, Glik 39) Att: 15,718

Cagliari 1 (Sau 49)
Lazio 3 (Klose 31, Biglia pen 60, Parolo 90+2) Att: 12,000

Fiorentina 2 (Diamanti 61, Salah 64)
Sampdoria 0 Att: 33,777

Genoa 1 (De Maio 19)
Udinese 1 (Thereau 68) Att: 18,117

Internazionale 1 (Guarin 25)
Parma 1 (Lila 44) Att: 33,175

Juventus 2 (Tevez 43, Pereyra 90+4)
Empoli 0 Att: 40,029

Palermo 1 (Dybala pen 72)
Milan 2 (Cerci 37, Menez 83) Att: 15,113

Roma 1 (Pjanic 25)
Napoli 0 Att: 34,425

Sassuolo 1 (Berardi pen 23)
Chievo 0 Att: 10,686

Verona 3 (Toni 3, 62, Gomez Taleb 30)
Cesena 3 (Carbonero 70, Brienza 77, Succi 81) Att: 17,590

Apr 8 **Parma 1** (Varela 70)
Udinese 0 Att: 9,772

Apr 11 **Genoa 2** (Niang 52, Iago Falque 58)
Cagliari 0 Att: 17,727

Parma 1 (Mauri 60)
Juventus 0 Att: 15,311

Verona 0
Internazionale 3 (Icardi 11, Palacio 48, Moras og 90+2) Att: 20,645

Apr 12 **Atalanta 2** (Denis 42, pen 63)
Sassuolo 1 (Berardi 59) Att: 15,311

Cesena 0
Chievo 1 (Pellissier 82) Att: 15,094

Lazio 4 (Mauri 4, Klose 31, Candreva 44, Felipe Anderson 53)
Empoli 0 Att: 49,096

Milan 1 (De Jong 74)
Sampdoria 1 (Soriano 58) Att: 30,735

Napoli 3 (Mertens 23, Hamsik 71, Callejon 89)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 21,804

Torino 1 (Lopez 64)
Roma 1 (Florenzi pen 57) Att: 11,317

Udinese 1 (Di Natale 81)
Palermo 3 (Lazaar 15, Rigoni 21, Chochev 66) Att: 8,704

Apr 15 **Genoa 2** (Iago Falque 14, Pavoletti 76)
Parma 0 Att: 17,568

Apr 18 **Juventus 2** (Tevez 17, Bonucci 28)
Lazio 0 Att: 38,916

Sampdoria 0
Cesena 0 Att: 21,182

Apr 19 **Cagliari 0**
Napoli 3 (Callejon 24, Balzano og 45+1, Gabbiadini 59) Att: 8,000

Chievo 1 (Pellissier 39)
Udinese 1 (Cesar og 71) Att: 10,128

Empoli 2 (Maccarone 32, Tonelli 45)
Parma 2 (Lodi 19, Belfodil 73) Att: 7,767

Internazionale 0
Milan 0 Att: 74,022

Palermo 2 (Chochev 9, 30)
Genoa 1 (Iago Falque 52) Att: 15,471

Roma 1 (Totti pen 3)
Atalanta 1 (Denis pen 23) Att: 35,088

Sassuolo 1 (Berardi pen 45+1)
Torino 1 (Quagliarella pen 58) Att: 12,500

Apr 20 **Fiorentina 0**
Verona 1 (Obbadi 90) Att: 27,094

Apr 25 **Internazionale 2** (Hernanes 15, Icardi 88)
Roma 1 (Nainggolan 63) Att: 37,695

Udinese 2 (Pinzi 58, Agyemang-Badu 74)
Milan 1 (Pazzini 88) Att: 9,006

Apr 26 **Atalanta 2** (Gomez 43, Denis 90+3)
Empoli 2 (Saponara 41, Maccarone 60) Att: 13,651

Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 74)
Cagliari 3 (Cop 7, 59, Diego Farias 90+2) Att: 27,560

Genoa 3 (Bertolacci 38, Perotti pen 45+3, Pavoletti 53)
Cesena 1 (Carbonero 69) Att: 19,663

Crunch...Genoa's Armando Izzo goes flying against Atalanta

Lazio 1 (Klose 45+1)
Chievo 1 (Paloschi 75) Att: 45,359

Napoli 4 (Gabbiadini 31, Higuain 34, pen 81, Insigne 47)
Sampdoria 2 (Albiol og 12, Muriel 89) Att: 30,724

Parma 1 (Nocerino pen 22)
Palermo 0 Att: 10,921

KEY GAME
Torino 2 (Darmian 45, Quagliarella 57)
Juventus 1 (Pirlo 35) Att: 26,296
Torino's victory in the Turin derby is overshadowed by violence in the stands, where supporters are injured when a firework explodes.

Verona 3 (Gomez Taleb 30, Toni 63, 71)
Sassuolo 2 (Moras og 35, Floro Flores 89) Att: 18,375

Apr 28 **Udinese 1** (Di Natale 50)
Internazionale 2 (Icardi pen 48, Podolski 65) Att: 8,901

Apr 29 **Cesena 2** (Brienza pen 56, Carbonero 70)
Atalanta 2 (Pinilla 50, 82) Att: 14,170

Chievo 1 (Meggiorini 11)
Cagliari 0 Att: 9,128

Juventus 3 (Llorente 36, Tevez 45+1, 70)
Fiorentina 2 (Rodriguez pen 33, Ilicic 90) Att: 37,503

Lazio 4 (Parolo 10, Klose 13, Candreva 16, Keita 81)
Parma 0 Att: 32,367

Milan 1 (Mexes 66)
Genoa 3 (Bertolacci 37, Niang 49, Iago Falque pen 90+3) Att: 25,916

Palermo 2 (Vitiello 10, Rigoni 26)
Torino 2 (Bruno Peres 13, Lopez 60) Att: 15,238

Sampdoria 1 (De Silvestri 65)
Verona 1 (Toni 68) Att: 19,609

Sassuolo 0
Roma 3 (Doumbia 6, Florenzi 27, Pjanic 74) Att: 12,196

Apr 30 **Empoli 4** (Maccarone 8, Britos og 43, Saponara 45+1, Albiol og 81)
Napoli 2 (Laurini og 64, Hamsik 90+1) Att: 9,201

May 2 **Sampdoria 0**
Juventus 1 (Vidal 32) Att: 22,083

Sassuolo 0
Palermo 0 Att: 11,321

May 3 **Atalanta 1** (Biava 49)
Lazio 1 (Parolo 77) Att: 15,479

Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic pen 31, 35, Gilardino 56)
Cesena 1 (Rodriguez 59) Att: 28,675

Internazionale 0
Chievo 0 Att: 33,144

Napoli 3 (Hamsik 70, Higuain 74, Gabbiadini 76)
Milan 0 Att: 25,469

Roma 2 (Doumbia 35, Florenzi 90+3)
Genoa 0 Att: 37,068

Verona 0
Udinese 1 (Di Natale 62) Att: 17,418

May 4 **Cagliari 4** (Ekdal 3, Diego Farias 14, M'Poku 38, Cop 63)
Parma 0 Att: 10,000

May 6 **Torino 0**
Empoli 1 (Padelli og 3) Att: 10,074

May 9 **Juventus 1** (Pogba 45)
Cagliari 1 (Rossettini 85) Att: 38,847

Milan 2 (Van Ginkel 40, Destro 59)
Roma 1 (Totti pen 73) Att: 35,614

May 10 **Cesena 2** (Defrel 15, Brienza 29)
Sassuolo 3 (Zaza 48, Taider 51, Missiroli 69) Att: 13,712

Chievo 2 (Paloschi 9, Pellissier pen 40)
Verona 2 (Gomez Taleb 20, Toni 26) Att: 22,128

Empoli 2 (Saponara 28, Mchedlidze 77)
Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic 4, 68, Salah 57) Att: 9,878

Lazio 1 (Candreva 8)
Internazionale 2 (Hernanes 26, 84) Att: 37,367

Palermo 2 (Vazquez 43, Rigoni 68)
Atalanta 3 (Baselli 6, Andjelkovic og 17, Gomez 51) Att: 13,792

Parma 2 (Palladino 9, Jorquera 33)
Napoli 2 (Gabbiadini 28, Mertens 72) Att: 13,172

Udinese 1 (Di Natale pen 87)
Sampdoria 4 (Soriano 25, 62, Acquah 80, Duncan 89) Att: 8,942

May 11 **Genoa 5** (Iago Falque 18, Costa 69, 90+5, Bertolacci 87, Pavoletti 90+2)
Torino 1 (El Kaddouri 61) Att: 20,282

May 16 **Internazionale 1** (Icardi 9)
Juventus 2 (Marchisio pen 42, Morata 83) Att: 60,362

Sampdoria 0
Lazio 1 (Gentiletti 54) Att: 21,843

May 17 **Atalanta 1** (Pinilla pen 18)
Genoa 4 (Pavoletti 30, Bertolacci 57, Iago Falque 61, 73) Att: 16,881

Rivals...Emiliano Moretti celebrations Torino's derby victory over Juventus

Cagliari 0
Palermo 1 (Vazquez 9) Att: 5,000

Roma 2 (Nainggolan 45, Torosidis 65)
Udinese 1 (Perica 19) Att: 35,720

Sassuolo 3 (Berardi 13, 31, 77)
Milan 2 (Bonaventura 33, Alex 51) Att: 13,777

Torino 2 (Lopez 51, 69)
Chievo 0 Att: 15,000

Verona 2 (Moras 24, Sala 67)
Empoli 1 (Saponara 6) Att: 18,588

May 18 **Fiorentina 3** (Rodriguez 13, Gilardino 30, Salah 56)
Parma 0 Att: 27,179

Napoli 3 (Mertens 19, 57, Gabbiadini 20)
Cesena 2 (Defrel 15, 45+2) Att: 37,568

May 23 **Genoa 3** (Pavoletti 24, Lestienne 41, Kucka 89)
Internazionale 2 (Icardi 19, Palacio 30) Att: 27,161

Juventus 3 (Pereyra 13, Sturaro 77, Pepe pen 90+3)
Napoli 1 (David Lopez 50) Att: 40,485

May 24 **Cesena 0**
Cagliari 1 (Sau 90+1) Att: 13,945

Chievo 1 (Pellissier 88)
Atalanta 1 (Gomez 48) Att: 10,128

Empoli 1 (Pucciarelli 57)
Sampdoria 1 (Eto'o 90+1) Att: 9,084

Milan 3 (El Shaarawy 18, 65, Pazzini pen 57)
Torino 0 Att: 33,818

Palermo 2 (Jajalo 26, Rigoni 69)
Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic 23, Gilardino 33, Marcos Alonso 78) Att: 27,429

Parma 2 (Nocerino 21, Varela 36)
Verona 2 (Toni 42, pen 80) Att: 11,889

Udinese 0
Sassuolo 1 (Magnanelli 70) Att: 8,899

May 25 **Lazio 1** (Djordjevic 81)
Roma 2 (Iturbe 73, Yanga-Mbiwa 85) Att: 49,385

May 30 **Atalanta 1** (Baselli 21)
Milan 3 (Pazzini pen 36, Bonaventura 38, 80) Att: 18,426

Verona 2 (Toni 48, Gomez Taleb 90+3)
Juventus 2 (Pereyra 42, Llorente 57) Att: 23,249

May 31 **Cagliari 4** (Sau 13, Joao Pedro 19, M'Poku 79, Bruno Fernandes og 85)
Udinese 3 (Aguirre 44, Bruno Fernandes 81, Thereau 87) Att: 7,000

Fiorentina 3 (Ilicic 12, Bernardeschi 76, Badelj 90+3)
Chievo 0 Att: 32,199

Internazionale 4 (Palacio 49, Icardi 53, 77, Brozovic 70)
Empoli 3 (Mchedlidze 59, 88, Pucciarelli 62) Att: 32,036

KEY GAME
Napoli 2 (Higuain 55, 64)
Lazio 4 (Parolo 33, Candreva 45+1, Onazi 85, Klose 90+2) Att: 57,510
Lazio hold off a stirring Napoli comeback to claim a Champions League play-off place. Gonzalo Higuain misses a penalty at 2-2.

Roma 1 (Totti 85)
Palermo 2 (Vazquez pen 35, Belotti 90+4) Att: 44,752

Sampdoria 2 (Romagnoli 53, De Silvestri 79)
Parma 2 (Palladino 74, Varela 88) Att: 20,913

Sassuolo 3 (Berardi 3, Zaza 18, 32)
Genoa 1 (Pavoletti 41) Att: 14,936

Torino 5 (Martinez 10, Lopez 16, 70, Benassi 31, Moretti 49)
Cesena 0 Att: 18,569

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

Lech knock Legia off the top

It's not often that a losing team receive more attention than the winners, but all the talk in Poland at the end of the season concentrated on Legia Warsaw's demise rather than Lech Poznan's first title since 2010.

Champions for the past two years, and with a £20million budget that is double that of Lech, Legia began the campaign with Champions League ambitions and their sights set on a domestic treble.

Early problems became clear, however, as their Norwegian coach, Henning Berg, introduced a squad rotation system. Keeping his strongest side for the European qualifier with Irish amateurs St Patrick's Athletic, Berg's team were humbled 3-2 by Zawisza Bydgoszcz in their own stadium in the Super Cup.

Disaster then struck in the Champions League when, after getting past St Pats they thrashed Celtic 6-1 on aggregate, only to be disqualified for fielding an ineligible player. With the Final to be played in Warsaw, Legia had an added incentive after dropping into the Europa League, but after negotiating the group phase they fell 4-0 on aggregate to Ajax.

All that was left was the Ekstraklasa and its new format. After the first 30-game phase, the 16 teams' points were halved as they were split into championship and relegation groups, where they would play those in their section once more. Legia, who topped the first stage table, had a huge morale boost in beating Lech 2-1 in the Polish Cup Final. But when the clubs met again in the opening second-stage match, Lech took revenge with a 1-0 win to go top for the first time.

"It will be interesting to see how my players bear this pressure," said coach Maciej Skorza. They coped fantastically, finishing a point ahead of Legia to be crowned champions for the seventh time.

"This title is down to our coach and we should be thankful to him," said defender Tomasz Kedziora of the 43-year-old who replaced Mariusz Rumak in August after Lech's poor start to the season. Skorza had said: "I will be satisfied only when we are champions". Now he has a third crown to go with those he won with Wisla Krakow in 2008 and 2009.

Sports daily *Przeglad Sportowy* panned Berg's leadership at Legia, commenting, "you have a Mercedes car, but cannot drive well enough". After 18 months in the driving seat the coach has hardly fulfilled chairman Boguslaw Lesnodorski's claim he would "bring new standards to the club". **WS**

Light show...Lech Poznan fans set off flares as the players parade the championship trophy

> "I will be satisfied only when we are champions"
>
> Maciej Skorza, on his appointment as coach of Lech

EKSTRAKLASA REGULAR SEASON

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LEGIA	30	17	5	8	57	30	56
LECH	30	14	12	4	52	27	54
JAGIELLONIA	30	14	7	9	43	35	49
SLASK	30	12	10	8	43	36	46
WISLA	30	11	10	9	47	39	43
GORNIK ZABRZE	30	11	10	9	43	43	43
POGON	30	11	8	11	40	38	41
LECHIA	30	11	8	11	36	37	41
KORONA	30	10	9	11	34	42	39
PIAST	30	11	6	13	38	43	39
PODBESKIDZIE	30	10	9	11	40	48	39
CRACOVIA	30	10	7	13	35	41	37
GORNIK LECZNA	30	8	10	12	31	37	34
RUCH	30	8	9	13	33	38	33
BELCHATOW	30	8	7	15	24	42	31
ZAWISZA	30	8	5	17	32	52	29

Top 8 formed championship group, bottom 8 formed relegation group; teams carried forward half their regular-season points (rounded up) but the rest of their regular-season record in full

EKSTRAKLASA CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LECH	37	19	13	5	67	33	43
LEGIA	37	21	7	9	64	33	42
JAGIELLONIA	37	19	8	10	59	44	41
SLASK	37	15	13	9	50	43	35
LECHIA	37	13	10	14	45	47	29
WISLA	37	12	13	12	56	48	28
GORNIK ZABRZE	37	12	11	14	50	60	26
POGON	37	11	9	17	45	52	22

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Kamil Wilczek
(Piast Gliwice)
Had the best season of his career, finishing as the league's top scorer with 20 goals, but then announced he would be looking for a new club this summer.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Bartlomiej Dragowski
(Jagiellonia Bialystok)
Promising keeper who made his debut at the end of last term and became a regular this season. Does not turn 18 until August.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Michal Probierz
(Jagiellonia Bialystok)
A 2010 Cup winner in an earlier spell as coach of the club, he returned in April last year and led the side to third place in the league and qualification for Europe.

CUP WINNERS
Marek Saganowski scored the winning goal as **Legia** beat Lech to win the Polish Cup for a record-extending 17th time.

RELEGATED
GKS Belchatow and early season Super Cup winners **Zawisza**.

PROMOTED
Zaglebie Lubin are back in the top flight a year after being relegated, while **LKS Nieciecza**, who are from a village of 750 people, are promoted for the first time.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Lech Poznan are in the second qualifying round of the Champions League, while **Legia** are in the second qualifying round of the Europa League. **Jagiellonia Bialystok, Slask Wroclaw** and **Legia** start in the first qualifying round of the Europa League.

EKSTRAKLASA RELEGATION GROUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CRACOVIA	37	15	9	13	50	44	36
RUCH	37	12	10	15	44	46	30
KORONA	37	12	11	14	44	55	28
PIAST	37	13	8	16	50	56	28
PODBESKIDZIE	37	12	10	15	47	60	27
GORNIK LECZNA	37	11	11	15	39	46	27
ZAWISZA	37	10	8	19	45	63	24
BELCHATOW	37	9	9	19	35	60	21

TOP GOALSCORERS

Kamil Wilczek *(Piast Gliwice)*	*20 goals*
Flavio Paixao *(Slask Wroclaw)*	*18 goals*

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PORTUGAL

TOM KUNDERT

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Maxi Pereira
(Benfica)
The considerable power and stamina of Uruguay's tireless right-back show no sign of waning with age, and the 30-year-old once again proved himself to be a key component in Benfica's defensive and attacking game.

Jesus wins again, then shocks Benfica

With Benfica's treble-winning team of the previous season brutally dismembered in the transfer market, and bitter rivals Porto spending big to bolster their squad, few gave Jorge Jesus' side much hope of retaining their league title. But nine months down the line and Benfica have their first back-to-back titles in 31 years.

Making light of the loss of players of the calibre of Jan Oblak, Ezequiel Garay and Enzo Perez, the charismatic Jesus moulded a side that got their noses in front early on and never let go of top spot. But in contrast to his previous five years at Benfica, Jesus' side this time relied far less on individual talent and far more on a united front.

"This squad may not have the quality of the last few years but we are a family and it is this togetherness that has won us the title," said the coach after the league was secured with a goalless draw at a sun-drenched Estadio D Afonso Henriques in Guimaraes. "The players, the fans and the whole structure contributed and should be congratulated."

The visitors' goalkeeper, Julio Cesar, was suitably emotional the day that they clinched the league but, considering what he had endured the previous summer, one would have needed a heart of stone not to be touched by his reaction in the immediate aftermath of Benfica's triumph. He began his on-pitch interview by saying "after what happened at the Brazil World Cup..." before breaking off as tears flowed down his cheeks.

While Argentinian wingers Nicolas Gaitan and Eduardo Salvio – the two remaining star names who survived last year's transfer cull – may have provided the gold dust, the success was personified in the indefatigable running of 30-year-old Maxi Pereira and the talismanic performances of captain Luisao, 34.

Along with Julio Cesar (35), defender Eliseu (31), and strikers Jonas (31) and Lima (32), the Lisbon club had a wealth of experience, which ultimately made the difference when set against the much younger squads of Porto and Sporting.

Victorious...Benfica's Eliseu parades the championship trophy in front of fans at the Estadio da Luz

The Eagles of Lisbon were also helped domestically by an early exit from Europe. As the season reached its climax, Benfica looked fresh and sprightly at precisely the same time as Porto, who had exhausted themselves against Bayern Munich in the Champions League, began to labour badly.

But it is impossible to downplay the importance of coach Jesus, who has almost single-handedly shattered Porto's hegemony of Portuguese football. And outspoken former Benfica boss Manuel Jose voiced the thoughts of many when he said: "If Jorge Jesus had been coach of this Porto squad, and Julen Lopetegui had been coach of this Benfica squad, Porto would have been crowned champions weeks before the end of the season."

> "His only demand was that he was allowed to coach his favourite club"
>
> Sporting president Bruno De Carvalho on the news that Jorge Jesus will leave Benfica to coach their city rivals next season

Jesus then stunned the whole country by announcing his intention to leave Benfica and move across town to rivals Sporting. The 60-year-old, a former Sporting player, was said to be angry at a reduced pay offer in a new contract offer from Benfica. He was reported to have been offered €6million a year over three seasons by Sporting. Benfica have lined up Vitoria Guimaraes coach Rui Vitoria as his replacement.

Jesus was the local face of a remarkably successful campaign for Portuguese managers across Europe with no fewer than five guiding their teams to their respective national championships: Vitor Pereira (Olympiakos), Jose Mourinho (Chelsea), Andre Villas-Boas (Zenit), Paulo Sousa (Basle) and Jorge Jesus (Benfica).

None of the quintet are novices when it comes to finishing top of the pile after a long hard season. The masterful Mourinho has now accumulated an incredible eight league titles (two in Portugal, two in Italy, one in Spain and three in England), Pereira has three to his name (two in Portugal, one in Greece), as has Jesus who has three times led Benfica to the Primeira Liga, while AVB (Portugal and Russia) and Paulo Sousa (Israel and Switzerland) have each won two national championship titles.

Trio...Jesus won three titles with Benfica but in a shock move quit to coach rivals Sporting next season

Nuno Espirito Santo at Valencia and Leonardo Jardim at Monaco have also earned plaudits after guiding their teams to Champions League qualification in Spain and France respectively, while further afield Jesualdo Ferreira is well placed to wrap up the Egyptian championship at the helm of Zamalek.

Their success is all the more extraordinary when one considers that as recently as 20 years ago the stock of Portuguese coaches was anything but high. Never mind abroad, at that time Primeira Liga clubs, big and small alike,

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Oliver Torres *(Porto)*
Enjoyed a fine season at the Estadio do Dragao on loan from Atletico Madrid. An inventive passer who offers a potent goal threat, the Spanish playmaker's flawless technique was perfectly suited to Porto's possession game.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Jorge Jesus *(Benfica)*
Lost half his treble-winning team from the previous season but still built a side to retain the title.

CUP WINNERS
Sporting Lisbon, who came from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 and beat Braga on penalties in the Final.

RELEGATED
Their respective seasons already looked in danger when **Penafiel** and **Gil Vicente** became the first Primeira Liga clubs to fire their coaches after a poor start to the campaign. However, it did neither any good as they occupied the bottom two positions all term.

PROMOTED
Tondela will be in the top flight for the first time, while **Uniao Madeira** were last there in 1995.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Benfica, **Porto** and **Sporting** start in the Champions League, **Braga**, **Guimaraes** and **Belenenses** are in the Europa League.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

constantly hired foreign coaches, some with questionable credentials, rather than entrusting the fortunes of their teams to local tacticians. When the option was taken to recruit a Portuguese coach, it appeared a colossal moustache and an impressive career as a player were the only two boxes that had to be ticked, with little thought given to the candidate's tactical, technical or man-management skills.

The spectacular success of Mourinho, Villas-Boas and Carlos Queiroz changed the mentalities of club presidents up and down the country. Queiroz's work in nurturing Portugal's golden generation triggered a sea-change in perceptions and the glittering achievements of Mourinho and AVB at Porto definitively brought into vogue a university-trained, studious and well-educated coach. **WS**

PRIMEIRA LIGA 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BENFICA	34	27	4	3	86	16	85
PORTO	34	25	7	2	74	13	82
SPORTING	34	22	10	2	67	29	76
BRAGA	34	17	7	10	55	28	58
V GUIMARAES	34	15	10	9	50	35	55
BELENENSES	34	12	12	10	34	35	48
NACIONAL	34	13	8	13	45	46	47
PACOS FERREIRA	34	12	11	11	40	45	47
MARITIMO	34	12	8	14	46	45	44
RIO AVE	34	10	13	11	38	42	43
MOREIRENSE	34	11	10	13	33	42	43
ESTORIL	34	9	13	12	38	56	40
BOAVISTA	34	9	7	18	27	50	34
V SETUBAL	34	7	8	19	24	56	29
ACADEMICA	34	4	17	13	26	46	29
AROUCA	34	7	7	20	26	50	28
GIL VICENTE	34	4	11	19	25	60	23
PENAFIEL	34	5	7	22	29	69	22

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Jackson Martinez *(Porto)*	*21 goals*
Jonas *(Benfica)*	*20 goals*
Lima *(Benfica)*	*19 goals*

Panic...Porto sub Juan Quintero causes problems for Estoril in a 5-0 win

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ACADEMICA	AROUCA	BELENENSES	BENFICA	BOAVISTA	BRAGA	ESTORIL	GIL VICENTE	MARITIMO	MOREIRENSE	NACIONAL	PACOS DE FERREIRA	PENAFIEL	PORTO	RIO AVE	SPORTING LISBON	VITORIA GUIMARAES	VITORIA SETUBAL
ACADEMICA		1-1	1-1	0-2	0-0	1-1	2-2	1-2	1-1	0-0	2-1	2-2	1-1	0-3	0-0	1-1	2-4	1-1
AROUCA	0-1		0-1	1-3	0-0	1-0	1-1	3-1	1-0	1-2	3-3	1-3	0-1	0-5	1-0	1-3	1-2	1-0
BELENENSES	0-0	0-0		0-2	3-1	0-1	2-2	2-0	1-0	2-0	3-1	0-1	0-0	1-1	1-3	1-1	0-3	1-1
BENFICA	5-1	4-0	3-0		3-0	2-0	6-0	1-0	4-1	3-1	3-1	2-0	4-0	0-0	1-0	1-1	3-0	3-0
BOAVISTA	1-0	3-1	1-0	0-1		1-0	1-2	3-2	0-2	3-1	0-1	1-2	1-0	0-2	1-1	1-3	3-1	0-0
BRAGA	0-0	2-0	1-1	2-1	3-0		2-1	2-0	1-3	1-0	3-1	3-0	4-0	0-1	3-0	0-1	0-0	5-0
ESTORIL	1-2	1-0	1-2	2-3	2-0	0-2		1-1	1-1	1-1	2-1	1-0	3-3	2-2	1-5	1-1	1-0	1-0
GIL VICENTE	1-1	1-1	0-2	0-5	1-1	0-2	1-1		1-2	0-1	0-0	1-0	2-1	1-5	0-0	0-4	1-3	1-1
MARITIMO	2-1	1-1	1-2	0-4	4-0	2-1	0-0	1-2		1-2	1-1	2-1	2-0	1-0	4-0	0-1	4-0	1-1
MOREIRENSE	0-2	1-0	0-1	1-3	1-0	0-0	1-1	2-0	1-1		2-3	2-0	0-0	0-2	1-1	1-4	2-1	3-1
NACIONAL	1-0	2-0	2-1	1-2	2-1	1-1	1-0	3-2	3-0	0-1		3-0	2-0	1-1	0-0	0-1	2-2	3-0
PACOS DE FERREIRA	3-2	2-1	2-0	1-0	1-0	2-2	1-1	1-1	3-2	0-0	2-3		2-1	0-1	1-2	1-1	2-2	4-1
PENAFIEL	0-0	0-2	1-3	0-3	2-2	1-6	1-2	2-1	3-4	1-2	2-1	0-1		1-3	0-2	0-4	1-1	2-0
PORTO	1-0	1-0	3-0	0-2	0-0	2-1	5-0	2-0	2-0	3-0	2-0	5-0	2-0		5-0	3-0	1-0	4-0
RIO AVE	3-0	1-2	0-0	2-1	4-0	0-2	2-1	0-0	0-0	1-1	1-1	0-0	3-2	1-3		0-1	1-1	2-0
SPORTING	1-0	1-0	1-1	1-1	2-1	4-1	3-0	2-0	4-2	1-1	2-0	1-1	3-2	1-1	4-2		4-1	3-0
VITORIA GUIMARAES	4-0	1-0	0-1	0-0	3-0	1-0	2-0	2-2	1-0	2-1	4-0	1-1	3-0	1-1	0-0	3-0		0-1
VITORIA SETUBAL	0-0	2-1	1-1	0-5	0-1	1-3	1-2	2-0	1-0	2-1	2-0	0-0	0-1	0-2	4-1	1-2	0-1	

Wait over...the Portuguese Cup was Sporting's first silverware since 2008

ROMANIA

EMANUEL ROSU

Minnows miss out at the last moment

Steaua may have won a record-extending 26th championship, but the Bucharest giants did their very best to throw it away, surrendering a 13-point lead going into the winter break before snatching the title on the last day of the season.

Having sold three key players in January – Lucian Sanmartean, Lukasz Szukala and Claudiu Keseru – Steaua allowed promoted Targu Mures to claw back the deficit and overtake them. Tipped for relegation last summer and with players going unpaid for months, the club from the northern city defied all expectations and only missed out on a shock celebration after losing their last two games.

"We didn't expect such an outcome for this season. It's absolutely incredible," says Targu Mures' deputy mayor, Claudiu Maior. "We were left without money for salaries for the players, who won one game after another. We had to pay huge bonuses."

After sacking the coach who had taken them up because "the football wasn't attractive enough", and then dismissing his replacement, Targu Mures settled on Liviu Ciobotariu. "He kept the boys motivated, even though salaries weren't paid and the contracts for 14 of the most important players ran out at the end of the season," said general manager Narcis Raducan.

With a remarkable 38 coaching changes during the campaign, it was no surprise that Ciobotariu wasn't offered a contract extension at the end of the season. "We should have started talks about his contract a long time ago, but the situation at the club didn't allow us to," admitted Raducan. Ciobotariu joined Saudi Arabian side Al Faisaly and was replaced by former Chelsea defender Dan Petrescu.

The axe descended at Steaua, too. Not even winning the treble was enough for Constantin Galca to keep his job and he was replaced by club legend Mirel Radoi.

"Galca's contract expired. We didn't extend it. How is that wrong in any way?" argued Steaua owner Gigi Becali, who who released from prison in April.

Having won a third successive title, Steaua will want to make their mark in Europe next season, but with no money available for new signings this summer that may be difficult.

However, nobody would mind next season's domestic competition being as close and exciting as it was this term. And that costs nothing. WS

Tense...players from Targu Mures (stripes) get into an ugly skirmish during a 3-1 defeat by Astra

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Florin Cernat *(Otelul)*
Now aged 35, the former Dynamo Kiev midfielder returned to his boyhood club last summer and had a fine campaign, despite the big financial problems they faced during a season which ended in relegation.

COACH OF THE SEASON

Constantin Galca *(Steaua)*
Despite losing some key players, he picked up three trophies and only missed out on the group stage of the Champions League spot after a penalty shoot-out.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Quenten Martinus *(Botosani)*
Signed by Botosani coach Leo Grozavu after he had watched just 15 seconds of the 24-year-old on DVD. Grozavu says of the Dutch left-winger: "His talent is just outstanding. If he wouldn't be so stubborn, he'd be playing for a way bigger club. He's class, absolute class."

CUP WINNERS
Steaua beat Universitatea Cluj 3-0 to win the domestic treble of league, Cup and League Cup for the first time in their 68-year history.

RELEGATED
Rapid, **Universitatea Cluj**, **Otelul**, **Brasov**, **Ceahlaul** and **Gaz Metan** go down.

PROMOTED
Voluntari and **Poli Timisoara** come up as the top flight reduces from 18 to 14 teams.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Steaua enter the Champions League, but with CFR Cluj, CSU Craiova, Petrolul and Dinamo all barred, **Targu Mures**, **Astra** and **Botosani** go into the Europa League.

LIGA 1 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
STEAUA	34	22	5	7	59	23	71
TARGU MURES	34	20	8	6	51	25	68
CFR	34	16	9	9	46	29	57
ASTRA	34	15	12	7	53	27	57
CSU CRAIOVA	34	14	11	9	40	34	53
PETROLUL	34	14	10	10	42	30	52
DINAMO	34	13	9	12	47	44	48
BOTOSANI	34	12	11	11	40	43	47
PANDURII	34	12	9	13	47	42	45
CSM STUD'TESC	34	11	10	13	31	39	43
VIITORUL	34	11	10	13	44	54	43
CONCORDIA	34	9	14	11	39	44	41
GAZ METAN	34	8	15	11	29	34	39
BRASOV	34	9	9	16	33	46	36
UNIV CLUJ	34	8	11	15	29	41	35
RAPID	34	8	9	17	21	42	33
OTELUL	34	7	11	16	24	45	32
CEAHLAUL	34	6	9	19	25	58	27

TOP GOALSCORERS

Gregory Tade *(CFR Cluj)*	*18 goals*
Mihai Roman *(Pandurii)*	*16 goals*
Bogdan Mitrea *(Viitorul)*	*14 goals*

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VICTOR GUSEV

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Hulk *(Zenit)*
The 28-year-old Brazilian striker was the league's top scorer with 15 goals and it was his free-kick against Ufa, in May, that sealed the championship with two games to spare. He signed a two-year extension to his contract in February.

Zenit make no late mistakes this time

Having wasted their nine-point spring advantage during the previous campaign, Zenit made certain that there would be no such mistake this time round, wrapping up the league title with two games to spare.

Russia's richest club were led to victory by the tournament's top scorer Hulk, who managed 15 goals in 28 games, but he was assisted greatly by two important new arrivals in St Petersburg. Argentinian defender Ezequiel Garay cemented Zenit's back line while Spanish midfielder Javi Garcia broke play up in front of them.

With this being Zenit's fourth Russian title (after successes in 2004, 2007 and 2010), to go with their Soviet league title in 1984, the club now has the right to wear a star on their shirts.

Having profited from Zenit's slip last time out, CSKA fell seven points short in their attempts to retain their title, but the Moscow-based side did take second spot – and a Champions League qualifying place – from Krasnodar by virtue of having won more games.

CSKA newcomers Bibars Natho and Roman Yeremenko formed an impressive partnership in central midfield that helped to compensate for a lack of firepower after Seydou Doumbia left the club for Roma in mid season.

> "We should be one of the top 10 clubs in Europe"
> Zenit coach Andre Villas-Boas

Despite their success domestically, coaches Andre Villas-Boas and Leonid Slutski, of Zenit and CSKA respectively, were heavily criticised during the season for their side's lack of success against European opposition.

Far more favourable views were afforded to Oleg Kononov of Krasnodar and 68-year-old Yuri Semin, who not only kept promoted Mordovia safe from relegation but led the club to an honourable eighth-place finish.

Dominant...Zenit have won all four of their Russian titles in the last eight years

In demand...Kononov

At 49, Kononov is frequently put forward as a possible replacement for national coach Fabio Capello. The Italian has been under attack since the team flopped in Brazil last summer and his situation wasn't helped when his contract details – his €7million a year accounts for 20 per cent of the Russian Football Union's total budget – were made public. Kononov has said he would consider the proposal only if he was allowed to remain at the helm of his present club.

Semin, who took Lokomotiv Moscow to the league in 2002 and 2004, has left Mordovia and will join Anzhi. Having finished as runners-up in the second tier, the Makhachkala-based club are back with new ambitions.

Known for their huge spending in the past, Anzhi have already signed one of Russia's most talented forwards in Fyodor Smolov. The 25-year-old, who had a very good season with Ural while on loan from Dynamo, was snapped up after becoming a free agent this summer.

Meanwhile, Lokomotiv won the Russian Cup under the guidance of caretaker coach Igor Cherevchenko just 10 days after he stepped in to replace Miodrag Bozovich. Former Lokomotiv defender Cherevchenko became the first person to win the Cup as both a player and a coach.

Major changes await Spartak. Known as "the people's team" due to their popularity throughout the country, they have started an overhaul of the club, with Leonid Fedun stepping down as president and Murat Yakin becoming the ninth coach to leave under Fedun's watch since 2004. He is

COACH OF THE SEASON
Oleg Kononov
(Krasnodar)
After taking his side into Europe for the first time this season, thanks to last term's fifth spot, he did even better this time in the league, overseeing a domestic campaign that ended with third spot and a another outing in Europe.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Ezequiel Garay
(Zenit)
A league winner in his Argentinian homeland with Newell's Old Boys and then in Portugal with Benfica, the 28-year-old was a rock at the back as he picked up his third championship medal in three different countries.

CUP WINNERS
Under interim coach Igor Cherevchenko, **Lokomotiv Moscow** came from behind to beat debutant finalists Kuban Krasnodar 3-1 after extra time and win the Russian Cup for a sixth time.

RELEGATED
Arsenal Tula and **Torpedo Moscow**.

PROMOTED
Anzhi and **Krylia Sovetov**.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Zenit and **CSKA** are in the Champions League, with the former straight through to the group stage, while **Krasnodar**, **Dynamo** and **Lokomotiv** are in the Europa League.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

replaced by Dmitry Alenichev, whose Arsenal side were relegated.

Many Spartak supporters expressed their dissatisfaction by boycotting the last game of the season, with an attendance of 11,500 against Amkar being the lowest at the new arena since it was opened earlier this year. However, that attendance still exceeded the average for the Premier League as a whole, with less then 10,000 fans per game – the lowest figure for the past decade.

These figures, along with he organisation's poor financial situation, forced Nikolai Tolstykh to stand down as president at the May conference of the Russian Football Union. Russian Sports minister Vitali Mutko and ex-CSKA coach Valeri Gazzayev have been named among the candidates to take his post. **WS**

PREMIER LEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZENIT	30	20	7	3	58	17	67
CSKA	30	19	3	8	67	27	60
KRASNODAR	30	17	9	4	52	27	60
DYNAMO	30	14	8	8	53	36	50
RUBIN	30	13	9	8	39	33	48
SPARTAK	30	12	8	10	42	42	44
LOKOMOTIV	30	11	10	9	31	25	43
MORDOVIA	30	11	5	14	22	43	38
TEREK	30	10	7	13	30	30	37
KUBAN	30	8	12	10	32	36	36
AMKAR	30	8	8	14	25	42	32
UFA	30	7	10	13	26	39	31
URAL	30	9	3	18	31	44	30
ROSTOV	30	7	8	15	27	51	29
TORPEDO	30	6	11	13	28	45	29
ARSENAL	30	7	4	19	20	46	25

Relegation/promotion play-offs
Tom Tomsk v Ural 0-1, 0-0 (agg 0-1)
Tosno v Rostov 0-1, 1-4 (agg1-5)

TOP GOALSCORERS

Hulk *(Zenit)*	*15 goals*
Roman Eremenko *(CSKA)*	*13 goals*
Quincy Promes *(Spartak)*	*13 goals*
Salomon Rondon *(Zenit)*	*13 goals*

Moscow pride...Spartak (in red) battle it out with neighbours CSKA

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	AMKAR	ARSENAL	CSKA	DYNAMO	KRASNODAR	KUBAN KRASNODAR	LOKOMOTIV	MORDOVIA	ROSTOV	RUBIN	SPARTAK	TEREK	TORPEDO	UFA	URAL	ZENIT
AMKAR		0-1	1-0	2-0	1-2	1-0	1-1	0-1	2-0	0-3	2-0	2-1	0-0	0-1	2-1	1-0
ARSENAL	4-0		1-4	1-2	0-3	0-1	0-2	0-1	1-1	0-0	1-0	1-1	1-3	0-1	1-2	0-4
CSKA	2-1	2-1		1-2	1-1	6-0	1-0	4-0	6-0	3-0	0-1	1-0	4-1	5-0	3-1	0-1
DYNAMO	5-0	2-2	1-0		1-1	2-2	2-2	2-1	7-3	0-2	1-2	3-0	0-0	3-1	2-0	0-1
KRASNODAR	1-1	3-0	2-1	0-2		3-2	1-0	4-0	2-1	2-0	4-0	2-0	2-2	0-2	1-1	2-2
KUBAN KRASNODAR	1-0	5-1	0-1	1-2	1-1		2-1	0-0	2-2	2-1	3-3	1-0	1-1	2-0	0-2	0-0
LOKOMOTIV	3-1	0-1	1-3	4-2	0-0	1-1		1-1	2-1	3-0	1-0	2-1	2-0	0-0	1-0	0-1
MORDOVIA	1-0	1-0	0-1	0-1	2-1	0-0	0-0		0-0	0-1	1-3	1-0	1-0	0-2	2-1	1-0
ROSTOV	1-1	0-1	1-1	2-2	0-2	2-1	0-1	2-1		1-2	2-1	0-1	1-0	2-0	1-0	0-5
RUBIN	1-1	1-0	2-1	1-1	1-2	1-0	1-1	5-0	2-0		0-4	2-1	2-1	1-1	2-1	0-1
SPARTAK	3-3	2-0	0-4	1-0	1-3	1-1	1-1	4-2	1-1	1-0		1-1	3-1	1-2	2-0	1-1
TEREK	4-0	3-0	1-2	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-0	1-0	2-1	1-1	4-2		0-1	1-0	1-3	1-2
TORPEDO	1-1	0-1	0-2	1-3	0-3	0-0	0-1	2-0	2-1	2-2	0-1	0-0		2-2	3-1	1-1
UFA	1-1	0-1	3-3	0-2	0-2	3-2	1-0	1-2	0-0	1-1	1-2	0-1	1-1		0-1	1-1
URAL	1-0	1-0	3-4	2-1	1-1	0-1	2-0	2-3	0-1	1-3	2-0	0-1	0-2	1-1		1-2
ZENIT	2-0	1-0	2-1	3-2	4-0	1-0	1-0	5-0	3-0	1-1	0-0	1-3	8-1	1-0	3-0	

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

Cup joy...it's a sixth Cup success for Lokomotiv

PHIL GORDON

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Craig Gordon
(Celtic)
Out of the game for two years after being released by Sunderland, the 32-year-old put his injury problems behind him and was in commanding form. Also made his first start for Scotland for five years.

Transfer-window buys give Celtic the edge

Lies, damned lies and statistics. When it comes to the Scottish Premiership of 2014-15, don't be too fooled by the numbers. While the final table may show a 17-point gap between champions Celtic and Aberdeen, that owed much to the north-east club taking just one point from their last four games once Celtic had sealed the title – something no second-placed side had ever done.

After the traditional games on January 1, Aberdeen actually held a one-point lead over the Glasgow club and were dreaming of a first title in 30 years, since the days when Alex Ferguson was manager. When Aberdeen went to Celtic Park in early March, the sides were level on points – even if Celtic had games in hand. However, a 4-0 victory for Celtic halted Derek McInnes' team and left Ronny Deila to guide the club to a fourth title in a row.

The Scottish Premiership was a lot closer than European leagues such as the Bundesliga for most of the campaign. In fact, back in the high-spending era of a decade ago, a Rangers side managed by Dick Advocaat once spent £12million on Tore Andre Flo to finish 20 points behind Celtic. Flo's fee was six times McInnes' entire wage budget at Aberdeen.

Celtic, though, used a winter break in Gran Canaria in January to transform themselves from a team that had been labouring, and was unsure under their new Norwegian manager, into one which lost just one of their last 20 league games.

Opener...Celtic on their way to a 4-0 win over Aberdeen

> "We always felt Celtic would win the league and all we could do was determine when they won it"
> Aberdeen manager Derek McInnes

The only other domestic match they lost was in the Scottish Cup semi-final to Inverness Caledonian Thistle, going down 3-2 in extra-time after goalkeeper Craig Gordon was sent off.

There was huge controversy in that game, as referee Steven MacLean and his five officials missed Josh Meekings keeping out Leigh Griffiths header with a hand. That error ended Celtic's chances of completing the treble – they had won the League Cup against Dundee United in March – for only the fourth time in the club's history: once was under Martin O'Neill in 2001; and twice under Jock Stein, in 1967 – when Celtic were also European champions - and 1969.

Being in such celebrated company gave plenty of Celtic fans reason to downplay Deila's success. Lies, damned lies and statistics, again. When three honours became two, the debate dropped off.

There is little doubt that the Norwegian did well to turn around a side which, in October, had been humbled at home by Hamilton for the first time since 1938 and was knocked out of the Champions League qualifiers twice – by Legia Warsaw and Maribor – before progressing from a low-key Europa League group.

When the Europa League resumed in February, Celtic were paired with Internazionale in a re-match of their 1967 European Cup Final. Deila had signed Stuart Armstrong and Gary Mackay-Steven from Dundee United for just over £2m in the transfer window and that injection of midfield quality was a perfect addition to the strongest area of Celtic's side. With Stefan Johansen and Scott Brown peerless, Deila's side flourished and Armstrong scored twice in a 3-3 draw with Inter in Glasgow before losing 1-0 in Italy.

"Bringing in the two new boys gave Celtic something," admits McInnes. "We always felt Celtic would win the league and all we could do was determine when they won it.

"Spending a couple of million quid in

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Ryan Christie
(Inverness CT)
The locally born midfielder who only turned 20 in February has great balance and passing ability. A product of the club's youth system, his father, Charlie Christie, played over 300 games for the club.

COACH OF THE SEASON
John Hughes
(Inverness CT)
Ronny Deila may have won the title, but the Caley boss worked marvels on one of smallest budgets in the Premiership. An unbelievable season ended with victory in the Scottish Cup and entry to Europe for the first time.

CUP WINNERS
Only formed in 1994, **Inverness Caledonian Thistle** claimed their first major silverware by beating Falkirk 2-1 with goals from Marley Watkins and James Vincent, despite having Carl Tremarco sent off. Second-tier Falkirk also lost in the 1997 and 2009 Finals.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Celtic enter the Champions League qualifiers, with **Aberdeen**, **Inverness** and **St Johnstone** in the Europa League qualifiers.

RELEGATED
St Mirren

PROMOTED
Hearts

TEAM OF THE SEASON

January certainly helped them but they are worthy champions."

Deila's decision to stump up the cash to prevent the gifted Armstrong and Mackay-Steven from moving to England was part of a commitment to Scottish players which really paid off. While Celtic spent plenty of money in recruiting strikers Stefan Scepovic from Spain and John Guidetti on loan from Manchester City, it was Leigh Griffiths who emerged as the club's top scorer, despite being on the bench until February.

The signing of keeper Gordon as a free agent last summer as a replacement for Southampton-bound Fraser Forster was also inspired and he was named player of the year by Scottish journalists.

The free-flowing football of Deila's team was impressive and the manager was presented with the league trophy after a 5-0 win over Inverness, with his predecessor,

Big time...Inverness won their first major trophy

Neil Lennon, also there doing TV work.

"I went from first grade to 10th grade in two days when I went from Stromsgodset to Celtic," says Deila. "We struggled with that. A lot of managers have come into Celtic, and other places before me, and also struggled."

Inverness secured their first European involvement with a third-place finish and victory in the Scottish Cup Final, while Hamilton survived the loss of inspirational player-manager Alex Neil – who went off to work his magic at Norwich City – to finish seventh.

The relegation scrap was a tame one as St Mirren ended their nine-season stay in the top flight, just two years after winning the Scottish League Cup. Motherwell prevented Rangers' return with a 6-1 aggregate victory in the play-offs. **WS**

PREMIERSHIP 2014-15

TOP SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CELTIC	38	29	5	4	84	17	92
ABERDEEN	38	23	6	9	57	33	75
INVERNESS	38	19	8	11	52	42	65
ST JOHNSTONE	38	16	9	13	34	34	57
DUNDEE UTD	38	17	5	16	58	56	56
DUNDEE	38	11	12	15	46	57	45

BOTTOM SIX

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HAMILTON	38	15	8	15	50	53	53
PARTICK	38	12	10	16	48	44	46
ROSS COUNTY	38	12	8	18	46	63	44
KILMARNOCK	38	11	8	19	44	59	41
MOTHERWELL	38	10	6	22	38	63	36
ST MIRREN	38	9	3	26	30	66	30

Division split after 33-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

Premiership play-off Final
Rangers v Motherwell 1-3, 0-3 (agg 1-6)

Derby day...Dundee (left) v Dundee United

TOP GOALSCORERS

Adam Rooney (Aberdeen)	*18 goals*
Nadir Ciftci (Dundee Utd)	*14 goals*
Leigh Griffiths (Celtic)	*14 goals*

Impressive...Rooney

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ABERDEEN	CELTIC	DUNDEE	DUNDEE UNITED	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	INVERNESS CT	KILMARNOCK	MOTHERWELL	PARTICK THISTLE	ROSS COUNTY	ST JOHNSTONE	ST MIRREN
ABERDEEN		1-2	3-3	0-3	3-0	3-2	1-0	1-0	2-0	3-0	2-0	2-2
CELTIC	2-1		2-1	6-1	0-1	1-0	2-0	1-1	1-0	0-0	0-1	4-1
DUNDEE	2-3	1-1		1-4	2-0	1-2	1-1	4-1	1-1	1-1	1-1	1-3
DUNDEE UNITED	0-2	2-1	6-2		2-2	1-1	3-1	1-0	1-0	2-1	2-0	3-0
HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	3-0	0-2	2-1	2-3		0-2	0-0	5-0	3-3	4-0	1-0	3-0
INVERNESS CT	0-1	1-0	0-0	1-0	4-2		2-0	3-1	0-4	1-1	2-1	1-0
KILMARNOCK	0-2	0-2	1-3	2-0	1-0	1-2		2-0	3-0	0-3	0-1	2-1
MOTHERWELL	0-2	0-1	1-3	1-0	0-4	0-2	1-1		1-0	2-2	0-1	1-0
PARTICK THISTLE	0-1	0-3	1-1	2-2	1-2	3-1	1-1	3-1		4-0	0-0	1-2
ROSS COUNTY	0-1	0-5	2-1	2-3	0-1	1-3	1-2	1-2	1-0		1-2	1-2
ST JOHNSTONE	1-0	0-3	0-1	2-1	0-1	1-0	1-2	2-1	2-0	2-1		1-2
ST MIRREN	0-2	1-2	0-1	0-3	0-2	0-1	1-2	0-1	0-1	2-2	0-1	

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ABERDEEN	CELTIC	DUNDEE	DUNDEE UNITED	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	INVERNESS CT	KILMARNOCK	MOTHERWELL	PARTICK THISTLE	ROSS COUNTY	ST JOHNSTONE	ST MIRREN
ABERDEEN				1-0		1-0		2-1	0-0	4-0		3-0
CELTIC	4-0			3-0	4-0		4-1	4-0	2-0			
DUNDEE	1-1	1-2		3-1	1-1		1-0		1-0			
DUNDEE UNITED					1-0			3-1	0-2	1-2	0-2	
HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	0-3					0-2	0-0			2-2	1-1	
INVERNESS CT		1-1	1-1	2-1			3-3			1-1	2-0	
KILMARNOCK	1-2			3-2				1-2	2-2			1-0
MOTHERWELL			0-1		4-0	2-1					1-1	5-0
PARTICK THISTLE					5-0	1-0		2-0		1-3	3-0	0-1
ROSS COUNTY		0-1	1-0				2-1	3-2			1-0	
ST JOHNSTONE	1-1	1-2	1-0				0-0					2-0
ST MIRREN		0-2	1-2	1-1	1-0	1-2				0-3		

TOP SIX

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	ABERDEEN	CELTIC	DUNDEE	DUNDEE UNITED	INVERNESS CT	ST JOHNSTONE
ABERDEEN		0-1				0-1
CELTIC			5-0		5-0	
DUNDEE	1-1				0-1	0-2
DUNDEE UNITED	1-0	0-3	3-0			
INVERNESS CT	1-2			3-0		
ST JOHNSTONE		0-0		1-1	1-1	

BOTTOM SIX

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	HAMILTON ACADEMICAL	KILMARNOCK	MOTHERWELL	PARTICK THISTLE	ROSS COUNTY	ST MIRREN
HAMILTON ACADEMICAL			2-0	1-1		1-0
KILMARNOCK	2-3				1-2	
MOTHERWELL		3-1		0-0	1-1	
PARTICK THISTLE		1-4				3-0
ROSS COUNTY	2-1			1-2		1-2
ST MIRREN		4-1	2-1			

SID LOWE

Xavi signs off in style with treble

Xavi Hernandez's last three matches for Barcelona all finished the same way: with him lifting a trophy. The man who has played more games for the club than anyone else – and arguably the most important footballer in Spain's history as the ideologue behind the most successful generation there has been – departed European football after exactly 900 games for club and country. He did so having won 28 senior trophies: 25 for his club, plus two European Championships and the World Cup.

The final three trophies arrived in the space of a fortnight. On Saturday, May 23, he lifted the league title trophy; the following Saturday it was the Copa del Rey; and the Saturday after that he raised the European Cup in Berlin. Victory over Atletico Madrid clinched La Liga with a week to spare and the trophy was presented six days later. Athletic Bilbao were defeated in a Spanish Cup Final marked by Lionel Messi scoring one of the most astonishing goals in memory. And Juventus were beaten in Berlin, with Ivan Rakitic, Luis Suarez and Neymar scoring.

In Berlin, they went wild; back in

Clean sweep...the all-conquering Barca side

Goodbye...Xavi at the end of his last league game in Spain

Treble...the city celebrates Barcelona's success

Barcelona, supporters poured down the Ramblas. The celebrations continued long into the night and started up again when the team arrived the following day. And rightly so, too. Barcelona had won the treble, only the seventh team in European football history ever to do so and the first team ever to win it twice: under Pep Guardiola in 2009 and again six years later under Luis Enrique.

When Xavi was called to lift the Champions League, he was with his companion for the last 15 years – the ball. Tucking it up his shirt, he took the trophy from Michel Platini. It was almost one o'clock in the morning when he finally left the Olympic Stadium, carrying the cup with Sergio Busquets, the midfielders holding an "ear" each. "This ending is incredible," Xavi said. "It does not get any better than this."

> "Whatever happens, we won't change. We have confidence in him"
>
> **Real Madrid president Florentino Perez gives coach Carlo Ancelotti a vote of confidence – two months before sacking him**

He had been on the verge of walking away last summer, but had eventually decided to wait a year. His role may have been reduced, but he was grateful to Enrique for persuading him to stay. "I'm so glad that he could leave this way," the Barcelona coach said. Yet he could never have expected this. No one could.

Few teams have deserved to win the European Cup so clearly: Barcelona had beaten the champions of Holland, France, England, Germany and Italy. Manchester City (three), Bayern Munich (five), Paris Saint-Germain (five) and Juventus (three) had all conceded at least three times against them. Two of the competition's

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Lionel Messi
(Barcelona)
Despite rumours of a fallout with coach Luis Enrique at the turn of the year, the world's greatest player hit the heights once again, scoring 58 goals in 57 appearances and winning the treble in the process.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Jonathas
(Elche)
In his first season in Spain, the Brazilian striker proved crucial to Elche's 13th place finish. However, even his talents may not have been enough to keep his side up as they were demoted due to financial problems.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Luis Enrique
(Barcelona)
Despite suffering plenty of early season criticism, he ended the campaign by emulating Pep Guardiola's feat of guiding Barcelona to the treble. The 45-year-old's reward was a contract extension until 2017.

CUP WINNERS
Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao 3-1 at Camp Nou to win the second part of their treble. Barca's opening goal was a brilliant solo effort from Lionel Messi, who evaded the challenges of three Bilbao defenders before surging into the area and finishing with a low shot.

RELEGATED
Almeria and **Cordoba**. **Elche** have appealed their demotion for financial irregularities. If the appeal is successful, Eibar will go down in Elche's place.

PROMOTED
Betis, **Sporting Gijon** and the winners of the Segunda Division play-offs.

three top scorers were theirs: Messi and Neymar, like Cristiano Ronaldo, finished on 10 goals. Suarez, who had begun the season banned, scored seven, including two in Paris, two in Manchester and the second goal in the Final.

And yet, when the draw for the last 16 was made, many considered Manchester City favourites against Barcelona.

Coming up to Christmas, it was Real Madrid who seemed most likely to take the title in Spain. And when Barcelona were beaten by Real Sociedad in the first game of 2015, the ensuing crisis brought the sacking of sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta and a call for presidential elections. The club appeared to be on the verge of sacking the coach too, amid reports of his relationship with Messi breaking down. One poll had 68 per cent of fans wanting Enrique to go.

How things change. "Everything changed," Messi admitted. Barcelona recovered, the pieces falling into place. Messi, Neymar and Suarez began to forge a terrifying front three, with the Argentinian now occupying a right-sided position, as a starting point at least, and the Uruguayan moving into the middle.

"The secret," Neymar said, "is that we're friends." It was not merely a platitude: the three of them, with Javier Mascherano too, are genuinely close.

By the end of the season, they had scored 122 goals between them. Suarez had 25. He had set himself a target of 20 goals. "So I have five left over for next season," he said in Berlin. More significant was the distribution of those goals, an eloquent comment on the way that Barcelona had improved: of his 25 goals, only three had been scored before Christmas. Defeat against Real Sociedad was a turning point: the following week they defeated Atletico Madrid and their season really began.

Dismissed...Ancelotti

> "He's the best player of all-time, comparable to Pele. I'm so happy to see this football"
> Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola on Lionel Messi

Barcelona went 19 games, playing every team in the league, winning 17, drawing one and losing one, before they played Atletico again. Victory took the title; they had racked up 52 of 57 points. From the Real Sociedad game to the end of the season Barcelona won 30 times.

As Barcelona improved, so Madrid stumbled. There wasn't a dramatic collapse, but they came up short. Ronaldo was top scorer again, racking up incredible statistics once more, but he has won just one league title since he came to Spain. The world club champions and European Super Cup winners, Madrid failed to claim any of the major trophies this season. No coach had done that and survived since Alfredo Di Stefano in 1983, and Carlo Ancelotti was sacked soon after the end of the season. Asked why, and what was it that the coach lacked, the president Florentino Perez replied: "I don't know."

If the decision itself was questionable, the way it was handled was worse, demonstrating a lack of the class and dignity that Ancelotti has in abundance.

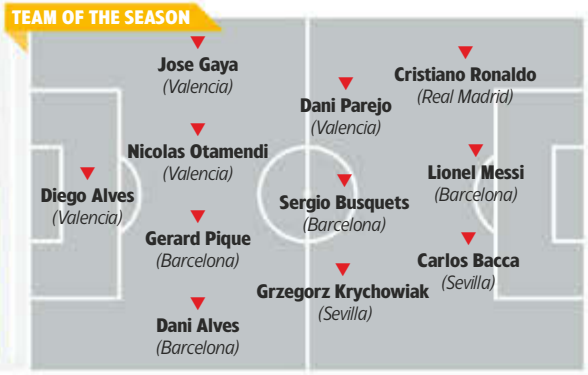
Right to the end, they avoided him, briefing against him but never admitting to his face what he could no longer fail to see: that he was about to lose his job. Almost exactly a year after winning Real Madrid's 10th European Cup, a trophy that obsessed them and one that they had waited well over a decade for, they finally sacked the man who took them there.

Next season, they will try again under Rafa Benitez. They will be joined by Barcelona, the defending champions, and by Atletico Madrid, Valencia and Sevilla. Spain will have five teams in the competition after Sevilla qualified by winning the Europa League for the second time in a row, the fourth in their

Safe...Deportivo get a point at Barcelona on the last day of the season

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid enter the group stages of the Champions League, along with Europa League winners Sevilla, while Valencia enter the qualifying stages. Villarreal and Athletic Bilbao enter the Europa League.

Euro-bound... Bilbao (in green) and Atletico



history – more than any other club.

Sevilla, the first club to benefit from a change in UEFA's rules, fully embraced the Europa League. The joy that they felt in winning the competition, and the excitement of Villarreal and Athletic Bilbao, who will represent Spain in the competition next season, revealed the absurdity of those clubs that turn their nose up at the competition, eschewing glory and emotion for...what, exactly? Sevilla continued to compete domestically, which did little for the theory that it gets in the way of league progress, and there is a deeper question too: what are you playing for?

As the Sevilla coach Unai Emery put it: "When I arrived at Sevilla, the first thing they said to me was: 'Unai, playing in the Champions League, like Valencia did with you, is lovely, but you haven't experienced what it is to win things'. Now I have; I have felt it. And it is the greatest feeling there is, something really shared.

"Football is emotion. There's an economic [imperative] but what fans really want is to enjoy their team.

"If you have money but don't generate feeling, it's worthless."

Sevilla's victory in Poland was sealed by two superbly taken goals from Carlos Bacca, the striker who once sold fish to survive. Not only fish; it is just seven years since he was a bus conductor in Colombia.

At the other end of the table, with Cordoba relegated long before the end of the season, striker Florin Andone described himself and his team-mates as a "disaster", admitting that he felt "ashamed" as the team were made to travel almost 800km by bus on the final day of the campaign as a punishment.

Euro win...Sevilla

There were four teams still fighting to beat the drop that day: Almeria, Granada, Deportivo La Coruna and Eibar. Almeria faced Valencia, who were chasing third and being chased for fourth. Granada, who'd won three in three, having previously managed four in 33, played Atletico. Deportivo travelled to the Camp Nou. And Eibar played Cordoba.

Within 10 minutes, the two teams that started the day in the drop zone, Eibar and Almeria, had moved above the two that had started out of it (Deportivo and Granada). But things had only just started and the composition of the relegation zone was to change seven times.

Deportivo, 2-0 down at Barcelona, came back to draw 2-2, while Almeria, who were leading, got pulled back by Valencia. Down on the bench, players had radios, listening nervously to results coming in from elsewhere.

Few expressed the tension better than Deportivo's Lucas Perez. "This is mad, lots of the players are crying," he said after Deportivo escaped.

They had thought they were dead and buried; instead, they had survived. So too had Granada, where a pitch invasion began. Jose Ramon Sandoval, the coach who had been in charge for just four games on a one-month contract, had rescued them with 10 points from 12.

"I've only been here for 23 days," he said. "But it feels like two seasons."

Instead it was Almeria who were relegated, while Eibar, who finished level with Granada and Deportivo, joined them on the head-to-head record. Jon Errasti, the Eibar-born captain, one of 10 players who won two consecutive promotions with the club, heading from the third tier to the top flight only to be relegated back down again, summed it up: "It hurts," he said.

But then it all changed again. Because of a debt with the tax authorities and their squad, the league relegated Elche, and Eibar will take their place in the first division – or so says the LFP president, Javier Tebas. First, though, there will be a legal challenge.

It has been a long season; it may yet be a long summer too. WS

Down...Almeria (in the stripes) twice lost the lead against Valencia

LA LIGA 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BARCELONA	38	30	4	4	110	21	94
REAL MADRID	38	30	2	6	118	38	92
ATLETICO MADRID	38	23	9	6	67	29	78
VALENCIA	38	22	11	5	70	32	77
SEVILLA	38	23	7	8	71	45	76
VILLARREAL	38	16	12	10	48	37	60
ATHLETIC BILBAO	38	15	10	13	42	41	55
CELTA VIGO	38	13	12	13	47	44	51
MALAGA	38	14	8	16	42	48	50
ESPANYOL	38	13	10	15	47	51	49
RAYO VALLECANO	38	15	4	19	46	68	49
REAL SOCIEDAD	38	11	13	14	44	51	46
ELCHE	38	11	8	19	35	62	41
LEVANTE	38	9	10	19	34	67	37
GETAFE	38	10	7	21	33	64	37
DEP LA CORUNA	38	7	14	17	35	60	35
GRANADA	38	7	14	17	29	64	35
EIBAR	38	9	8	21	34	55	35
ALMERIA	38	8	8	22	35	64	32
CORDOBA	38	3	11	24	22	68	20

TOP GOALSCORERS

Cristiano Ronaldo *(Real Madrid)*	*48 goals*
Lionel Messi *(Barcelona)*	*43 goals*
Antoine Griezmann *(Atletico Madrid)*	*22 goals*
Neymar *(Barcelona)*	*22 goals*
Carlos Bacca *(Sevilla)*	*20 goals*

Aug 23, 2014 **Almeria 1** (Soriano 52)
Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia 90+13) Att: 12,000

Granada 2 (Rochina 55, Babin 77)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Ivan Cavaleiro 20)
Att: 14,800

Malaga 1 (Luis Alberto 35)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 24,500

Sevilla 1 (Aleix Vidal 44)
Valencia 1 (Orban 88) Att: 29,352

Aug 24 **Barcelona 3** (Messi 42, 63, Munir 46)
Elche 0 Att: 68,105

Celta Vigo 3 (Nolito 20, Orellana 56, Larrivey 70)
Getafe 1 (Sammir 62) Att: 20,416

Eibar 1 (Javi Lara 45)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 5,173

Levante 0
Villarreal 2 (Uche 56, Cheryshev 85) Att: 19,000

Aug 25 **Rayo Vallecano 0**
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 11,070

Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 30, Cristiano Ronaldo 90)
Cordoba 0 Att: 70,356

Aug 29 **Getafe 1** (Alvaro 29)
Almeria 0 Att: 6,000

Valencia 3 (Paco Alcacer 31, Parejo 45, Piatti 56)
Malaga 0 Att: 41,550

Aug 30 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Aduriz 32, Iturraspe 51, Muniain 76)
Levante 0 Att: 48,300

Atletico Madrid 2 (Miranda 11, Mandzukic 25)
Eibar 1 (Abraham 33) Att: 48,000

Cordoba 1 (Cartabia 60)
Celta Vigo 1 (Orellana 52) Att: 15,982

Espanyol 1 (Stuani 61)
Sevilla 2 (Bacca 34, Iborra 57) Att: 16,490

Aug 31 **Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Jose Rodriguez 7, Cuenca pen 90)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bueno 40, 73) Att: 18,054

Elche 1 (Lomban 90+1)
Granada 1 (Fran Rico 81) Att: 20,025

Real Sociedad 4 (Inigo Martinez 35, Zurutuza 41, 65, Vela 75)
Real Madrid 2 (Sergio Ramos 5, Bale 11)
Att: 27,879

Villarreal 0
Barcelona 1 (Sandro 82) Att: 21,200

Sep 12 **Almeria 1** (Edgar 12)
Cordoba 1 (Cartabia 19) Att: 10,682

Sep 13 **Barcelona 2** (Neymar 79, 84)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 80,181

Celta Vigo 2 (Orellana 28, Larrivey 48)
Real Sociedad 2 (Agirretxe 69, Jonny og 90+2)
Att: 19,385

Malaga 0
Levante 0 Att: 20,000

Real Madrid 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 26)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Tiago 10, Arda 76) Att: 85,253

Sep 14 **Granada 0**
Villarreal 0 Att: 21,000

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Kakuta 45, Bueno pen 90+1)
Elche 3 (Edu Albacar 37, Jonathas 55, Mosquera 69) Att: 9,521

Sevilla 2 (Bacca pen 44, Aleix Vidal 87)
Getafe 0 Att: 34,600

Valencia 3 (Piatti 7, Parejo 63, Paco Alcacer 73)
Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia pen 90) Att: 38,500

Sep 15 **Eibar 0**
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Juan Dominguez 13)
Att: 4,522

Sep 19 **Elche 0**
Eibar 2 (Dani Garcia 3, Albentosa 42) Att: 22,474

Struggle...Deportivo La Coruna (in white) and Granada narrowly avoided relegation

Sep 20 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Granada 1 (Cordoba 40) Att: 33,000

Atletico Madrid 2 (Miranda 31, Godin 41)
Celta Vigo 2 (Hernandez 19, Nolito pen 53)
Att: 47,000

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Medunjanin pen 51, Toche 84)
Real Madrid 8 (Cristiano Ronaldo 29, 41, 78, Rodriguez 36, Bale 66, 74, Hernandez 88, 90+2)
Att: 27,685

Espanyol 2 (Caicedo 16, Stuani 88)
Malaga 2 (Camacho 53, Duda 90+3) Att: 12,600

Sep 21 **Cordoba 1** (Borja 83)
Sevilla 3 (Bacca 8, pen 88, Mbia 73) Att: 17,023

Levante 0
Barcelona 5 (Neymar 34, Rakitic 44, Sandro 57, Pedro 64, Messi 77) Att: 22,177

Real Sociedad 1 (Castro 85)
Almeria 2 (De la Bella og 32, Dos Santos 51)
Att: 18,000

Villarreal 4 (Espinosa 33, Musacchio 62, Vietto 74, 87)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Kakuta 22, Bueno 29)
Att: 15,050

Sep 22 **Getafe 0**
Valencia 3 (Paco Alcacer 7, Andre Gomes 20, Rodrigo pen 72) Att: 6,000

Sep 23 **Celta Vigo 2** (Nolito 4, Larrivey 72)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Cuenca 55) Att: 23,811

Real Madrid 5 (Bale 20, Cristiano Ronaldo pen 28, 32, pen 80, 90+2)
Elche 1 (Edu Albacar pen 15) Att: 63,634

Sep 24 **Almeria 0**
Atletico Madrid 1 (Miranda 60) Att: 11,863

Eibar 1 (Arruabarrena 8)
Villarreal 1 (Gerard 71) Att: 4,231

Granada 0
Levante 1 (Ruben Garcia 46) Att: 15,731

Malaga 0
Barcelona 0 Att: 24,820

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Leo Baptistao 39, 89)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Aduriz 20) Att: 11,040

Sevilla 1 (Deulofeu 18)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 29,456

Sep 25 **Espanyol 2** (Sergio Garcia 65, Stuani 82)
Getafe 0 Att: 14,285

Valencia 3 (Paco Alcacer 22, Gaya 27, Feghouli 73)
Cordoba 0 Att: 36,000

Sep 26 **Elche 0**
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 90) Att: 20,852

Sep 27 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Eibar 0 Att: 45,000

Atletico Madrid 4 (Koke 19, Saul 42, Raul Garcia pen 83, Jimenez 89)
Sevilla 0 Att: 52,000

Barcelona 6 (Neymar 26, 45, 66, Rakitic 43, Messi 62, 82)
Granada 0 Att: 72,596

Levante 0
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Leo Baptistao 12, 33) Att: 18,000

Villarreal 0
Real Madrid 2 (Modric 32, Cristiano Ronaldo 40)
Att: 22,146

Sep 28 **Cordoba 0**
Espanyol 0 Att: 24,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Almeria 1 (Edgar 90+2) Att: 18,000

Getafe 1 (Michel 25)
Malaga 0 Att: 5,500

Real Sociedad 1 (Canales 36)
Valencia 1 (Carles Gil 15) Att: 25,168

Oct 3 **Getafe 1** (Diawara 88)
Cordoba 1 (Ekeng 78) Att: 9,000

Oct 4 **Almeria 2** (Verza pen 37, Hemed 84)
Elche 2 (Victor Rodriguez 6, Jonathas 56) Att: 9,000

Eibar 3 (Pedro Lopez og 46, Saul 70, Piovaccari 90+3)
Levante 3 (Morales 2, Camarasa 43, Victor 79)
Att: 4,265

Malaga 2 (Santa Cruz 60, Antunes pen 80)
Granada 1 (El Arabi 1) Att: 19,000

Rayo Vallecano 0
Barcelona 2 (Messi 35, Neymar 36) Att: 14,070

Valencia 3 (Miranda og 6, Andre Gomes 7, Otamendi 13)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic 29) Att: 44,000

Oct 5 **Celta Vigo 1** (Larrivey 44)
Villarreal 3 (Moi Gomez 32, 33, Mario 90+1)
Att: 23,000

Espanyol 2 (Lucas Vazquez 7, Stuani 90+2)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 18,326

Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo 2, 55, 88, Benzema 41, 69)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 77,987

Sevilla 4 (Mbia 24, 57, Bacca 39, Vitolo 63)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Medunjanin 31)
Att: 31,000

Oct 17 **Granada 0**
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Manucho 90+3) Att: 19,000

Oct 18 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz pen 6)
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 73) Att: 35,600

Barcelona 3 (Xavi 60, Neymar 72, Messi 74)
Eibar 0 Att: 75,546

Cordoba 1 (Ghilas 90+4)
Malaga 2 (Samu Garcia 22, Amrabat pen 31)
Att: 17,000

Levante 0
Real Madrid 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 13, 61, Hernandez 38, Rodriguez 66, Isco 82) Att: 23,506

Oct 19 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Tiago 43, Mario Suarez 71)
Espanyol 0 Att: 54,069

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Gaya og 36, Lucas Perez 43, Toche 79)
Valencia 0 Att: 21,908

Elche 0
Sevilla 2 (Bacca 59, Gameiro 73) Att: 26,059

Villarreal 2 (Uche 23, 59)
Almeria 0 Att: 19,000

Oct 20 **Real Sociedad 1** (Hervias 82)
Getafe 2 (Yoda 90, 90+3) Att: 19,098

Oct 24 **Celta Vigo 3** (Larrivey 27, 83, Alex Lopez 90)
Levante 0 Att: 19,231

Oct 25 **Almeria 0**
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Etxeita 56) Att: 12,000

Cordoba 1 (Xisco 87)
Real Sociedad 1 (Inigo Martinez 22) Att: 15,712

Eibar 1 (Boveda 37)
Granada 1 (Nyom 8) Att: 4,838

KEY GAME

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 35, Pepe 50, Benzema 61)
Barcelona 1 (Neymar 4) Att: 85,450

With his global ban at an end, Luis Suarez finally makes his debut for Barcelona – but Madrid are victorious as Karim Benzema produces an oustanding performance.

Valencia 3 (Mustafi 13, Parejo 18, Lomban og 64)
Elche 1 (Jonathas 90+2) Att: 37,500

Strength...Pepe scores in *El Clasico*

Oct 26 **Espanyol 0**
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 21,800

Getafe 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic 40) Att: 9,300

Malaga 4 (Samu Garcia 6, Darder 21, Juanmi 45, Amrabat pen 49)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 21,800

Sevilla 2 (Denis Suarez 88, Bacca pen 90+3)
Villarreal 1 (Vietto 79) Att: 34,500

Oct 31 **Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Helder Postiga 80)
Getafe 2 (Fabricio og 35, Lafita 46) Att: 20,150

Nov 1 **Atletico Madrid 4** (Griezmann 43, 58, Mandzukic 62, Raul Garcia 80)
Cordoba 2 (Ghilas 53, 87) Att: 48,600

Barcelona 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Larrivey 55) Att: 71,468

Granada 0
Real Madrid 4 (Cristiano Ronaldo 2, Rodriguez 31, 87, Benzema 54) Att: 21,800

Real Sociedad 0
Malaga 1 (Juanmi 72) Att: 21,086

Nov 2 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz 13)
Sevilla 0 Att: 42,000

Elche 2 (Jonathas 19, 52)
Espanyol 1 (Stuani pen 86) Att: 21,471

Levante 2 (David Barral 26, Victor 75)
Almeria 1 (Zongo 70) Att: 16,000

Win...Valencia (in white) beat Villarreal

Villarreal 1 (Manu Trigueros 88)
Valencia 3 (Manu Trigueros og 6, Mustafi 64, 73)
Att: 23,000

Nov 3 **Rayo Vallecano 2** (Leo Baptistao 67, 68)
Eibar 3 (Arruabarrena pen 38, 86, Piovaccari 49)
Att: 10,625

Nov 7 **Cordoba 0**
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 15,643

Nov 8 **Almeria 1** (Bifouma 37)
Barcelona 2 (Neymar 73, Jordi Alba 82) Att: 12,606

Celta Vigo 0
Granada 0 Att: 20,000

Getafe 0
Elche 0 Att: 6,000

Malaga 2 (Juanmi 53, Amrabat pen 89)
Eibar 1 (Arruabarrena 42) Att: 22,600

Real Madrid 5 (Bale 9, Sergio Ramos 40, Kroos 55, Benzema 59, Cristiano Ronaldo 83)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bueno 44) Att: 76,842

Nov 9 **Espanyol 1** (Colotto 90)
Villarreal 1 (Mario 26) Att: 22,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Vela 15, Agirretxe 82)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic 10) Att: 22,768

Sevilla 1 (Vitolo 31)
Levante 1 (Victor 80) Att: 28,500

Valencia 0
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 39,600

Nov 21 **Athletic Bilbao 3** (Aduriz 29, Viguera 44, Iturraspe 78)
Espanyol 1 (Victor Sanchez 84) Att: 28,000

Nov 22 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Tiago 12, Griezmann 42, Godin 83)
Malaga 1 (Santa Cruz 64) Att: 44,200

Barcelona 5 (Messi 21, 72, 78, Neymar 49, Rakitic 65)
Sevilla 1 (Jordi Alba og 47) Att: 78,283

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 18,521

Eibar 0
Real Madrid 4 (Rodriguez 23, Cristiano Ronaldo 43, pen 83, Benzema 70) Att: 5,859

Nov 23 **Elche 2** (Lomban pen 63, Jonathas 75)
Cordoba 2 (Fidel 12, Cartabia 60) Att: 22,639

Levante 2 (Victor 58, Morales 74)
Valencia 1 (Parejo 73) Att: 17,200

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bueno 20)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 7,100

Villarreal 2 (Mario 38, Gerard 43)
Getafe 1 (Lacen 61) Att: 19,500

Nov 24 **Granada 0**
Almeria 0 Att: 16,500

Nov 28 **Real Sociedad 3** (Vela 3, 31, 53)
Elche 0 Att: 17,000

Nov 29 **Celta Vigo 0**
Eibar 1 (Manu 30) Att: 16,000

Espanyol 2 (Caicedo 19, Sergio Garcia 35)
Levante 1 (Morales 12) Att: 12,723

Getafe 1 (Lafita 90+1)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (San Jose 36, Benat 90)
Att: 8,100

Malaga 1 (Santa Cruz 90+2)
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 18, Bale 83) Att: 29,025

Nov 30 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Saul 43, Arda 55)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 45,000

Cordoba 0
Villarreal 2 (Vietto 24, Uche 70) Att: 15,998

Sevilla 5 (Bacca 24, 79, Banega 65, Mbia 89, Gameiro 90+2)
Granada 1 (El Arabi pen 42) Att: 30,347

Valencia 0
Barcelona 1 (Busquets 90+3) Att: 51,200

Dec 1 **Almeria 0**
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Kakuta 86) Att: 8,500

Dec 6 **Athletic Bilbao 0**
Cordoba 1 (Ghilas 23) Att: 38,500

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Malaga 1 (Darder 22) Att: 19,000

Elche 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Gimenez 17, Mandzukic 53)
Att: 18,290

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 36, 65, 81)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 80,300

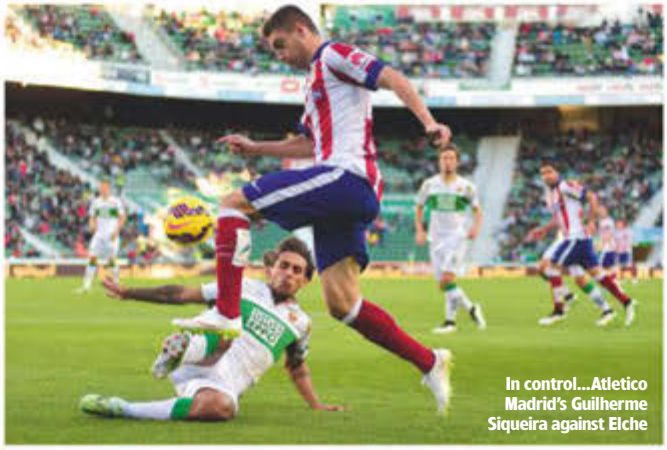
Dec 7 **Barcelona 5** (Messi 45, 50, 81, Pique 53, Pedro 78)
Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia 13) Att: 76,057

Granada 1 (Success 89)
Valencia 1 (Negredo 83) Att: 18,300

Rayo Vallecano 0
Sevilla 1 (Bacca 8) Att: 11,604

Villarreal 4 (Zubikarai og 64, Cheryshev 73, Moi Gomez 80, 86)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 16,000

Dec 8 **Eibar 5** (Piovaccari 3, Saul 21, Albentosa 31, Raul Navas 57, Capa 75)
Almeria 2 (Soriano 43, Edgar 77) Att: 4,200


In control...Atletico Madrid's Guilherme Siqueira against Elche

Levante 1 (Rafael Martins 71)
Getafe 1 (Yoda 56) Att: 13,582

Dec 12 **Almeria 1** (Verza 39)
Real Madrid 4 (Isco 34, Bale 42, Cristiano Ronaldo 81, 88) Att: 13,950

Dec 13 **Cordoba 0**
Levante 0 Att: 18,600

Getafe 0
Barcelona 0 Att: 9,500

Malaga 1 (Samu Garcia 21)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 23,650

Valencia 3 (Feghouli 13, 34, Piatti 36)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 36,800

Dec 14 **Atletico Madrid 0**
Villarreal 1 (Vietto 84) Att: 37,000

Espanyol 2 (Caicedo 34, Stuani 90)
Granada 1 (El Arabi 61) Att: 18,405

Real Sociedad 1 (Vela 3)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (De Marcos 61) Att: 26,651

Sevilla 0
Eibar 0 Att: 20,000

Dec 15 **Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Farina 22)
Elche 0 Att: 14,167

Dec 19 **Celta Vigo 0**
Almeria 1 (Hemed 17) Att: 13,200

Dec 20 **Barcelona 5** (Pedro 2, Suarez 53, Pique 80, Messi 82, 90+1)
Cordoba 0 Att: 60,066

Eibar 0
Valencia 1 (Paco Alcacer 31) Att: 4,700

Levante 1 (Ivanschitz pen 90+3)
Real Sociedad 1 (Canales 48) Att: 16,800

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Leo Baptistao 45)
Espanyol 3 (Sergio Garcia 9, 90+5, Lucas Vazquez 76) Att: 7,776

Dec 21 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Mikel Rico 17)
Atletico Madrid 4 (Griezmann 46, 73, 81, Raul Garcia pen 53) Att: 46,500

Elche 1 (Lomban 45+1)
Malaga 2 (Camacho 49, Luis Alberto 77)
Att: 24,134

Granada 1 (Cordoba 40)
Getafe 1 (Velazquez 78) Att: 19,600

Villarreal 3 (J Dos Santos 10, Vietto 68, 73)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 16,000

Jan 3, 2015 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Griezmann 18, 47, Godin 82)
Levante 1 (El Zhar 62) Att: 52,163

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Ivan Cavaleiro 24)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 16,200

Elche 2 (Jonathas 26, Victor Rodriguez 35)
Villarreal 2 (Vietto 12, Uche 17) Att: 18,283

Malaga 1 (Samu Garcia 73)
Almeria 2 (Hemed 39, pen 76) Att: 19,500

Sevilla 1 (Pareja 32)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 31,253

Jan 4 **Espanyol 1** (Caicedo 80)
Eibar 2 (Manu 34, Boveda 38) Att: 19,136

Getafe 1 (Alvaro 3)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Jozabed 39, Baena 64)
Att: 6,500

KEY GAME

Real Sociedad 1 (Jordi Alba og 2)
Barcelona 0 Att: 28,748

Defeat in the first game of the new year and a seeming crisis at Barca is followed by the sacking of sporting director Andoni Zubizarreta and a call for presidential elections, with coach Luis Enrique's job on the line.

Valencia 2 (Barragan 52, Otamendi 65)
Real Madrid 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 14)
Att: 50,738

Jan 5 **Cordoba 2** (Ghilas 16, Andone 44)
Granada 0 Att: 18,600

Jan 9 **Levante 0**
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 17,000

Jan 10 **Celta Vigo 1** (Orellana 61)
Valencia 1 (Rodrigo 43) Att: 18,000

Eibar 2 (Manu 33, Capa 51)
Getafe 1 (Diego Castro 80) Att: 4,115

Malaga 1 (Amrabat 60)
Villarreal 1 (J Dos Santos 45+1) Att: 23,500

KEY GAME

Real Madrid 3 (Rodriguez 12, Bale 28, Nacho 76)
Espanyol 0 Att: 69,600

Liga leaders Madrid continue their winning streak but Gareth Bale is jeered by some supporters for not passing to team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo.

Jan 11 **Almeria 0**
Sevilla 2 (Iborra 58, Coke 63) Att: 16,000

Athletic Bilbao 1 (San Jose 73)
Elche 2 (Victor Rodriguez 17, Fajr 53) Att: 42,000

Barcelona 3 (Neymar 12, Suarez 35, Messi 87)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Mandzukic pen 57) Att: 81,658

Granada 1 (Fran Rico pen 79)
Real Sociedad 1 (Vela pen 36) Att: 22,000

Jan 12 **Rayo Vallecano 0**
Cordoba 1 (Ba og 39) Att: 10,620

Jan 16 **Cordoba 1** (Andone 1)
Eibar 1 (Arruabarrena 73) Att: 14,800

Jan 17 **Espanyol 1** (Caicedo 90)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 15,000

Real Sociedad 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Manucho 81) Att: 21,542

Valencia 3 (Parejo 11, Rodrigo 28, Negredo 83)
Almeria 2 (Hemed 13, 33) Att: 37,500

Villarreal 2 (Cheryshev 42, Bruno pen 83)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 19,300

Jan 18 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Mandzukic pen 34, Raul Garcia 88)
Granada 0 Att: 42,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Barcelona 4 (Messi 10, 33, 62, Sidnei og 83)
Att: 25,173

Elche 1 (Jonathas 12)
Levante 0 Att: 14,726

Getafe 0
Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 63, 79, Bale 67)
Att: 11,500

Sevilla 2 (Bacca 36, Denis Suarez 68)
Malaga 0 Att: 24,000

Jan 24 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Griezmann 12, 22, Manucho og 56)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Trashorras 35) Att: 37,202

Cordoba 1 (Ghilas pen 3)
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 27, Bale pen 89)
Att: 21,822

Elche 0
Barcelona 6 (Pique 35, Messi pen 55, 88, Neymar 69, 71, Pedro 90+3) Att: 28,235

Real Sociedad 1 (Xabi Prieto 55)
Eibar 0 Att: 19,000

Villarreal 1 (Vietto 56)
Levante 0 Att: 11,000

Jan 25 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (San Jose 70)
Malaga 1 (Javi Guerra 78) Att: 41,200

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Jose Rodriguez 34, Lucas Perez 38)
Granada 2 (Piti 7, Robert Ibanez 83) Att: 17,000

Espanyol 3 (Stuani 37, 40, Caicedo 74)
Almeria 0 Att: 16,792

Valencia 3 (Parejo pen 18, 32, Javi Fuego 56)
Sevilla 1 (Bacca pen 36) Att: 46,704

Jan 26 **Getafe 2** (Alvaro 19, Sarabia 85)
Celta Vigo 1 (Charles 15) Att: 3,500

Jan 30 **Rayo Vallecano 1** (Bueno 22)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Borges 10, pen 72)
Att: 10,724

Jan 31 **Celta Vigo 1** (Nolito 56)
Cordoba 0 Att: 16,200

Eibar 1 (Piovaccari 89)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Griezmann 7, Mandzukic 23, 25) Att: 5,200

Granada 1 (Cordoba 56)
Elche 0 Att: 15,320

Real Madrid 4 (Rodriguez 3, Sergio Ramos 37, Benzema 52, 76)
Real Sociedad 1 (Elustondo 1) Att: 71,653

Feb 1 **Almeria 1** (Edgar 44)
Getafe 0 Att: 13,000

Barcelona 3 (Neymar 45, Rafinha 53, Messi 55)
Villarreal 2 (Cheryshev 30, Vietto 51) Att: 60,005

Levante 0
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Aduriz 48, 90) Att: 16,359

Sevilla 3 (Diogo Figueiras 26, Vitolo 35, Iago Aspas 89)
Espanyol 2 (Stuani pen 15, Victor Sanchez 77)
Att: 27,955

Feb 2 **Malaga 1** (Samu Castillejo 25)
Valencia 0 Att: 20,191

Feb 4 **Real Madrid 2** (Rodriguez 12, Jese 36)
Sevilla 1 (Iago Aspas 80) Att: 67,126

Feb 6 **Deportivo La Coruna 2** (Lucas Perez 52, Ivan Cavaleiro 79)
Eibar 0 Att: 16,898

Feb 7 **KEY GAME**
Atletico Madrid 4 (Tiago 14, Saul 18, Griezmann 67, Mandzukic 89)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 53,063
The title race is blown wide open by Atletico's stunning win over their injury-hit neighbours.

Levante 4 (David Barral 26, pen 37, pen 62, Uche 75)
Malaga 1 (Juanmi 24) Att: 14,500

Real Sociedad 1 (Agirretxe 8)
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito 85) Att: 14,836

Villarreal 2 (Musacchio 30, Gerard 90+2)
Granada 0 Att: 16,000

Feb 8 **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Mikel Rico 59, Aduriz 66)
Barcelona 5 (Messi 15, Suarez 26, De Marcos og 62, Neymar 64, Pedro 86) Att: 43,800

Cordoba 1 (Cartabia 10)
Almeria 2 (Michel 61, 66) Att: 18,000

Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia 89)
Valencia 2 (Piatti 62, Pau Lopez og 85) Att: 18,752

Getafe 2 (Alvaro pen 29, Pedro Leon 85)
Sevilla 1 (Krychowiak 66) Att: 5,000

Real misery...a humbling by Atletico

Double...Valencia's Dani Parejo celebrates his second goal against Sevilla

Feb 9 **Elche 2** (Suarez 21, Garry Rodrigues 82)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 14,000

Feb 13 **Almeria 2** (Verza pen 5, Hemed 40)
Real Sociedad 2 (Agirretxe 27, Canales 48)
Att: 13,600

Feb 14 **Granada 0**
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 14,879

Malaga 0
Espanyol 2 (Alvaro 41, Sergio Garcia 90+3)
Att: 16,134

Real Madrid 2 (Isco 22, Benzema 73)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 68,500

Sevilla 3 (Krychowiak 38, Bacca 44, Iborra 76)
Cordoba 0 Att: 29,450

Feb 15 **Barcelona 5** (Neymar 17, Messi 38, 59, pen 65, Suarez 73)
Levante 0 Att: 74,963

Celta Vigo 2 (Nolito pen 59, Orellana 71)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 15,600

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bueno 51, Kakuta 69)
Villarreal 0 Att: 10,914

Valencia 1 (Negredo pen 71)
Getafe 0 Att: 48,245

Feb 16 **Eibar 0**
Elche 1 (Jonathas 50) Att: 4,109

Feb 20 **Getafe 2** (Sarabia 33, Alvaro 57)
Espanyol 1 (Arbilla 89) Att: 10,000

Feb 21 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Mandzukic pen 13, Griezmann 20, 29)
Almeria 0 Att: 44,500

Barcelona 0
Malaga 1 (Juanmi 7) Att: 78,276

Cordoba 1 (Ghilas pen 74)
Valencia 2 (Andre Gomes 38, Piatti 81) Att: 18,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Celta Vigo 2 (Charles 46, Larrivey 82) Att: 30,334

Feb 22 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz 86)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 32,600

Elche 0
Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 56, Cristiano Ronaldo 69)
Att: 31,512

Real Sociedad 4 (Agirretxe 16, Xabi Prieto pen 48, 90, Arribas og 82)
Sevilla 3 (Kolodziejczak 43, Bacca 67, Gameiro pen 78) Att: 21,378

Villarreal 1 (Vietto 71)
Eibar 0 Att: 18,500

Feb 23 **Levante 2** (Camarasa 88, David Barral 90+3)
Granada 1 (El Arabi pen 13) Att: 14,000

Feb 27 **Espanyol 1** (Abraham 43)
Cordoba 0 Att: 16,000

Feb 28 **Almeria 0**
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 8,979

Granada 1 (Fran Rico pen 53)
Barcelona 3 (Rakitic 25, Suarez 48, Messi 70)
Att: 18,119

Malaga 3 (Juanmi 10, Darder 57, Ricardo Horta 68)
Getafe 2 (Alvaro 55, 76) Att: 21,600

Rayo Vallecano 4 (Bueno 23, 32, 33, 38)
Levante 2 (Victor 13, Uche 85) Att: 10,512

Mar 1 **Eibar 0**
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Gurpegi 36) Att: 5,226

Real Madrid 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 52)
Villarreal 1 (Gerard 64) Att: 71,000

Sevilla 0
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 36,001

Valencia 2 (Piatti 53, 56)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 38,000

Mar 2 **Celta Vigo 1** (Krohn-Dehli 61)
Elche 1 (Lomban pen 88) Att: 14,500

Mar 6 **Levante 2** (David Barral 65, Uche 67)
Eibar 1 (Saul 55) Att: 16,922

Mar 7 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz 26)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 52,600

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Oriol Riera 28, 72, Lucas Perez pen 90+3)
Sevilla 4 (Vitolo 33, 52, Gameiro pen 65, Sidnei og 83) Att: 15,000

Elche 1 (Victor Rodriguez 6)
Almeria 0 Att: 23,127

Granada 1 (Camacho og 57)
Malaga 0 Att: 16,374

Mar 8 **Atletico Madrid 1** (Koke 33)
Valencia 1 (Mustafi 78) Att: 49,500

Barcelona 6 (Suarez 5, 90+1, Pique 49, Messi pen 56, 63, 68)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bueno pen 81) Att: 87,151

Real Sociedad 1 (Canales 38)
Espanyol 0 Att: 23,329

Villarreal 4 (G Dos Santos 41, Musacchio 45+1, Vietto 73, Gerard 84)
Celta Vigo 1 (Fernandez 50) Att: 14,366

Mar 9 **Cordoba 1** (Andone 77)
Getafe 2 (Fede Vico og 87, Juan Rodriguez 90+2)
Att: 15,181

Mar 13 **Valencia 2** (Parejo pen 61, Paco Alcacer 72)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 47,000

Mar 14 **Celta Vigo 1** (Larrivey 64)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Aduriz pen 17, San Jose 32)
Att: 17,000

Eibar 0
Barcelona 2 (Messi pen 31, 55) Att: 5,439

Espanyol 0
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 22,538

Rayo Vallecano 3 (Bueno 65, 76, Embarba 90+4)
Granada 1 (Cordoba 8) Att: 10,952

Mar 15 **Almeria 0**
Villarreal 0 Att: 14,000

Malaga 2 (Juanmi 48, Amrabat 84)
Cordoba 0 Att: 24,547

Real Madrid 2 (Bale 18, 40)
Levante 0 Att: 64,500

Sevilla 3 (Bacca pen 18, 31, Gameiro 81)
Elche 0 Att: 31,351

Mar 16 **Getafe 0**
Real Sociedad 1 (Guaita og 66) Att: 5,500

Mar 20 **Elche 0**
Valencia 4 (Andre Gomes 44, Paco Alcacer 57, Roco og 71, Otamendi 90+2) Att: 26,510

Mar 21 **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Etxeita 9, Mikel Rico 26)
Almeria 1 (Balenziaga og 47) Att: 36,500

Atletico Madrid 2 (Fernando Torres 3, Tiago 44)
Getafe 0 Att: 38,673

Granada 0
Eibar 0 Att: 15,000

Levante 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Charles 86) Att: 11,473

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Kakuta 22)
Malaga 0 Att: 9,110

Mar 22 **KEY GAME**
Barcelona 2 (Mathieu 19, Suarez 56)
Real Madrid 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 31) Att: 98,760
Barca pull four points clear of their rivals after a chaotic, open game at Camp Nou.

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Espanyol 0 Att: 18,000

Real Sociedad 3 (Agirretxe 33, Castro 75, Finnbogason 90+2)
Cordoba 1 (Andone 12) Att: 21,169

Villarreal 0
Sevilla 2 (Coke 49, Vitolo 65) Att: 7,500

Apr 3 **Eibar 1** (Arruabarrena pen 35)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bueno 40, Manucho 42)
Att: 5,000

Apr 4 **Almeria 1** (Hemed pen 70)
Levante 4 (David Barral 17, 53, 75, Victor 32)
Att: 9,500

Cordoba 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 5, Saul 39)
Att: 15,000

Malaga 1 (Recio 55)
Real Sociedad 1 (Ruben Pardo 83) Att: 22,000

Sevilla 2 (Aleix Vidal 3, Bacca 21)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 27,752

Apr 5 **Celta Vigo 0**
Barcelona 1 (Mathieu 73) Att: 23,731

Getafe 2 (Alexis 17, Escudero 34)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Toche 79) Att: 6,200

Real Madrid 9 (Bale 25, Cristiano Ronaldo 30, 36, 38, 54, 89, Benzema 52, 56, Mainz og 83)
Granada 1 (Robert Ibanez 74) Att: 71,863

Valencia 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 49,545

Apr 6 **Espanyol 1** (Sergio Garcia 17)
Elche 1 (Cristian Herrera 77) Att: 13,892

Apr 7 **Atletico Madrid 2** (Mikel Gonzalez og 2, Griezmann 10)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 42,500

Eibar 1 (Arruabarrena 52)
Malaga 0 Att: 4,008

Levante 1 (Uche 73)
Sevilla 2 (Gameiro 10, Reyes 37) Att: 12,980

Apr 8 **Barcelona 4** (Messi 33, Suarez 55, 90+3, Bartra 75)
Almeria 0 Att: 73,837

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Andone og 87)
Cordoba 1 (Andone 55) Att: 17,602

Granada 1 (Robert Ibanez 3)
Celta Vigo 1 (Bongonda 90+3) Att: 14,338

Rayo Vallecano 0
Real Madrid 2 (Cristiano Ronaldo 68, Rodriguez 73) Att: 13,009

Apr 9 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz 90)
Valencia 1 (De Paul 61) Att: 42,666

Elche 0
Getafe 1 (Hinestroza 84) Att: 15,000

Villarreal 0
Espanyol 3 (Caicedo 24, 68, Victor Sanchez 79) Att: 20,000

Apr 11 **Almeria 3** (Partey 45+1, 87, Espinosa 59)
Granada 0 Att: 14,000

Celta Vigo 6 (Larrivey 6, 37, Santi Mina 21, 40, 51, 56)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Manucho 1) Att: 21,000

Malaga 2 (Fernando Torres og 37, Samu Garcia 71)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 25, 78) Att: 24,500

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 21, Hernandez 31, Jese 83)
Eibar 0 Att: 73,965

Sevilla 2 (Banega 38, Gameiro 84)
Barcelona 2 (Messi 14, Neymar 31) Att: 40,355

Apr 12 **Cordoba 0**
Elche 2 (Roco 41, Pasalic 68) Att: 14,164

Espanyol 1 (Sergio Garcia 40)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 20,143

Getafe 1 (Diego Castro 64)
Villarreal 1 (Uche pen 52) Att: 6,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Xabi Prieto pen 33, Castro 57)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lucas Perez 40, Toche 78) Att: 21,894

Apr 13 **Valencia 3** (Paco Alcacer 16, Feghouli 36, Negredo 90+3)
Levante 0 Att: 46,955

Apr 17 **Levante 2** (Simao 21, Victor 87)
Espanyol 2 (Lucas Vazquez 18, Caicedo 45+1) Att: 17,062

Apr 18 **Athletic Bilbao 4** (Aduriz pen 45, 46, Ibai Gomez 79, Susaeta 87)
Getafe 0 Att: 40,000

Barcelona 2 (Suarez 1, Messi 90+4)
Valencia 0 Att: 92,915

Mesmerising... Neymar has Cordoba tied in knots during the 8-0 thrashing by Barcelona

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Oriol Riera 78)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 5, 22) Att: 24,693

Real Madrid 3 (Sergio Ramos 24, Rodriguez 69, Cristiano Ronaldo 90+2)
Malaga 1 (Juanmi 71) Att: 78,354

Apr 19 **Eibar 0**
Celta Vigo 1 (Nolito pen 40) Att: 4,520

Granada 1 (Mainz 16)
Sevilla 1 (Mainz og 69) Att: 18,275

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Amaya 23, Fedor 90)
Almeria 0 Att: 10,165

Villarreal 0
Cordoba 0 Att: 23,000

Apr 20 **Elche 1** (Jonathas 19)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 19,159

Apr 24 **Cordoba 0**
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Deivid og 56) Att: 16,000

Apr 25 **Atletico Madrid 3** (Griezmann 55, 77, Raul Garcia 63)
Elche 0 Att: 47,531

Espanyol 0
Barcelona 2 (Neymar 17, Messi 25) Att: 30,253

Getafe 0
Levante 1 (Victor 35) Att: 7,000

Real Sociedad 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 17,073

Apr 26 **Almeria 2** (Bifouma 8, Verza pen 68)
Eibar 0 Att: 10,715

Celta Vigo 2 (Nolito 9, Santi Mina 28)
Real Madrid 4 (Kroos 16, Hernandez 24, 69, Rodriguez 43) Att: 25,077

Malaga 1 (Amrabat 47)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Oriol Riera 60) Att: 23,851

Sevilla 2 (Iborra 16, Daniel Carrico 43)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 28,532

Apr 27 **Valencia 4** (Javi Fuego 26, Parejo pen 40, Feghouli 85, Negredo 88)
Granada 0 Att: 43,800

Apr 28 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz pen 52)
Real Sociedad 1 (De la Bella 60) Att: 42,322

Barcelona 6 (Messi pen 9, 47, Suarez 25, 40, Neymar 28, Xavi 30)
Getafe 0 Att: 65,356

In flight...Valencia's Andre Gomes

Levante 1 (David Barral 41)
Cordoba 0 Att: 16,000

Apr 29 **Celta Vigo 1** (Nolito 89)
Malaga 0 Att: 17,205

Eibar 1 (Piovaccari 51)
Sevilla 3 (Bacca 7, 15, Reyes 64) Att: 4,300

Elche 4 (Jonathas 6, Lomban pen 20, Pasalic 54, Garry Rodrigues 90+1)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 19,642

Real Madrid 3 (Rodriguez 44, Dos Santos og 49, Arbeloa 84)
Almeria 0 Att: 63,813

Villarreal 0
Atletico Madrid 1 (Fernando Torres 74) Att: 18,725

Apr 30 **Granada 1** (Mainz 73)
Espanyol 2 (Sergio Garcia 45, Montanes 84) Att: 15,097

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Embarba 19)
Valencia 1 (Parejo 66) Att: 10,055

May 1 **Real Sociedad 3** (Finnbogason 13, Bergara 51, Vela 86)
Levante 0 Att: 18,821

May 2 **Atletico Madrid 0**
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 53,500

KEY GAME
Cordoba 0
Barcelona 8 (Rakitic 42, Suarez 45+2, 53, 88, Messi 46, 80, Pique 65, Neymar pen 85) Att: 13,775
Luis Suarez scores a hat-trick as Barcelona remain two points clear in the title race after thrashing doomed Cordoba.

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Borges 50)
Villarreal 1 (Jaume Costa 48) Att: 20,817

Sevilla 2 (Bacca pen 45+2, Iborra 79)
Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 36, 37, 69) Att: 39,689

May 3 **Espanyol 1** (Moreno 80)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Insua 29) Att: 15,435

Getafe 1 (Pedro Leon 45)
Granada 2 (El Arabi pen 14, 59) Att: 7,000

Malaga 1 (Javi Guerra 90+4)
Elche 2 (Jonathas 29, Pasalic 89) Att: 18,714

Valencia 3 (Otamendi 25, Parejo 56, Paco Alcacer 71)
Eibar 1 (Arruabarrena 84) Att: 39,320

May 4 **Almeria 2** (Bifouma 47, Zongo 68)
Celta Vigo 2 (Nolito 17, Santi Mina 39) Att: 10,898

May 8 **Eibar 0**
Espanyol 2 (Sergio Garcia 29, Stuani 60) Att: 5,722

May 9 **Athletic Bilbao 1** (Aduriz 14)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Lopo 90+3) Att: 39,670

Barcelona 2 (Neymar 51, Pedro 85)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 86,047

Granada 2 (Mainz 45, El Arabi pen 69)
Cordoba 0 Att: 19,266

Real Madrid 2 (Pepe 56, Isco 84)
Valencia 2 (Paco Alcacer 19, Javi Fuego 26) Att: 76,000

May 10 **Almeria 1** (Partey 31)
Malaga 2 (Casado og 23, Javi Guerra 69) Att: 10,690

Celta Vigo 1 (Santi Mina pen 58)
Sevilla 1 (Gameiro 8) Att: 18,957

Levante 2 (David Barral 32, Uche 63)
Atletico Madrid 2 (Siqueira 35, Fernando Torres 80) Att: 19,314

Villarreal 1 (Campbell 26)
Elche 0 Att: 13,500

May 11 **Rayo Vallecano 2** (Manucho 28, Fedor 73)
Getafe 0 Att: 9,475

May 17 **KEY GAME**
Atletico Madrid 0
Barcelona 1 (Messi 65) Att: 53,254
Barcelona clinch the title with a game to spare on the ground where they lost their crown to Atletico exactly a year earlier.

Cordoba 1 (Luso 56)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Baena 21, Embarba 78) Att: 7,000

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lopo 21, Juanfran 80)
Levante 0 Att: 30,251

Elche 2 (Jonathas 32, 45)
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Aketxe 80, San Jose 87, Williams 90+2) Att: 22,693

Espanyol 1 (Stuani 73)
Real Madrid 4 (Cristiano Ronaldo 59, 83, 90+1, Marcelo 79) Att: 30,180

Getafe 1 (Hinestroza 33)
Eibar 1 (Borja 36) Att: 7,200

Real Sociedad 0
Granada 3 (El Arabi 74, Robert Ibanez 79, Rochina 88) Att: 20,644

Sevilla 2 (Iborra 65, 70)
Almeria 1 (Bifouma 30) Att: 32,511

Valencia 1 (Otamendi 71)
Celta Vigo 1 (Hernandez 8) Att: 44,498

Villarreal 2 (Gerard 82, 87)
Malaga 1 (Darder 90) Att: 15,000

May 23 **Almeria 2** (Partey 9, Soriano 37)
Valencia 3 (Otamendi 28, Feghouli 45, Paco Alcacer 80) Att: 11,429

Athletic Bilbao 4 (Aduriz pen 25, 60, Iraola 28, Benat 36)
Villarreal 0 Att: 43,276

Barcelona 2 (Messi 5, 59)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Lucas Perez 67, Diogo Salomao 76) Att: 93,743

Celta Vigo 3 (Hugo Mallo 38, Cabral 58, Nolito 76)
Espanyol 2 (Sergio Garcia pen 23, Stuani 48) Att: 15,000

Eibar 3 (Arruabarrena 6, Raul Navas 11, Capa 34)
Cordoba 0 Att: 6,065

Granada 0
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 20,848

Levante 0
Elche 0 Att: 11,847

Malaga 2 (Javi Guerra 67, 90+2)
Sevilla 3 (Reyes 52, Banega 55, Aleix Vidal 62) Att: 23,103

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bueno 42, Morcillo 64)
Real Sociedad 4 (Vela 19, Castro 21, Agirretxe 73, Elustondo 75) Att: 9,593

Real Madrid 7 (Cristiano Ronaldo 13, 32, pen 34, Hernandez 47, Rodriguez 51, Jese 71, Marcelo 90)
Getafe 3 (Escudero 22, Diego Castro 26, Lacen 42) Att: 63,769

SWITZERLAND

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Shkelzen Gashi
(Basle)
The 26-year-old, Swiss-born Albania international has been the Super League's top goalscorer for the past two seasons, first with Grasshoppers and now with Basle, who he joined in June last year.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Breel Embolo
(Basle)
The 18-year-old, who was born in Cameroon but has chosen to play for Switzerland, scored 17 goals in all competitions in his first full season, including one against Ludogorets in the Champions League.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Paulo Sousa
(Basle)
Won the title in his first season with his side playing a style of football that was easy on the eye. Has now won silverware as a coach in Israel, Hungary and Switzerland, plus Portugal, Italy and Germany as a player.

Different approach, same outcome

Basle's sixth Super League title in a row was the first of that half dozen to be won under a coach with no previous connection to the club and who wasn't either German or Swiss.

Ambitious yet likeable, and considerably less dour than many of his fellow Portuguese bosses, Paulo Sousa quickly set about implementing his philosophy on joining last summer, even if it meant ruffling a few feathers along the way.

Early on he baffled supporters with some of his formations, switching players around and leaving captain Marco Streller on the bench for important games. One of his most controversial decisions was to substitute Fabian Schar after only 36 minutes into a 3-1 defeat at Grasshoppers, leaving the defender clearly humiliated and close to tears.

Sousa's failure to learn German, instead speaking in English, also antagonised some local sensitivities, although that was an odd complaint given he would probably not have been to able understand the various dialects that Swiss Germans speak anyway. In fact, many Swiss prefer to speak English than standard German which, although the official language, is used almost exclusively for writing.

No double...Basle lost the Cup Final to Sion

By late September, Basle fans were wondering whether their club, with a reputation for stability, should nip the Portuguese experiment in the bud and go back to a tried and trusted local coach. But, in the end, it was worth the persistence.

Sousa's positive outlook gave his full-backs freedom to attack down the flanks, while there was constant movement in midfield and generally two wide forwards supplying a target man. When not in possession, the team would be expected to press high in the opposition's half.

Even when Basle lost 5-1 at Real Madrid in the Champions League, Sousa pointed out his team had managed 16 shots on goal.

Things began to turn with the Champions League win at home to Liverpool, and Basle went on to reach the last 16 with a 1-1 draw at Anfield, where Sousa produced another bold, attacking line-up. Then, after the 14th game of the domestic campaign, Basle went top of the league – and stayed there.

> "Year after year, the expectations are always higher and higher, and for me, this was the challenge"
> Paulo Sousa, who took charge of Basle last summer

"Year after year, the expectations are always higher and higher, and for me this was the challenge, to come to a club which has won for five years in a row," said Sousa after a goalless draw with Young Boys wrapped up the title with three games to spare. "I knew it would be difficult from the beginning.

"I'm really proud – proud of myself and my staff, who have convinced the boys to play in a certain way, to be consistent in that way, to promote the protagonism of football and to be attractive."

Basle remain a model of good organisation; a sort of mini-Bayern Munich but without the overbearing arrogance. The club lives within its means and there is a vibrant fan culture which belies the Swiss reputation for being reserved.

The squad is divided into three types of players in what Basle call the "one-third rule". There are young players raised at their own youth academy, foreign players using the club as a springboard for a move to a bigger league, and experienced campaigners playing out their careers. The latter category included former Argentina defender Walter Samuel, who had an unhappy season, making only a handful of appearances, and former Switzerland forward Marco Streller, who retired at the end of the campaign.

Out...Frei quit as Lucerne's sporting director after a disastrous start

Nevertheless, the club's dominance of Swiss football is clearly a worry and the financial gap between them and the rest can only get bigger as they rake in Champions League money, creating a snowball effect.

Young Boys, Zurich and Grasshoppers have finished runners-up over the past few seasons and this time it was Young Boys' turn, finishing 12 points adrift and wondering what might have been had they not failed to win any of their first four games.

Grasshoppers, who were second the season before, had a miserable time after selling leading scorer Shkelzen Gashi to Basle and finished eighth. Michael Skibbe

CUP WINNERS
Sion made it 13 wins with a shock 3-0 victory over Basle.

PROMOTED
Challenge League champions **Lugano**.

RELEGATED
After two seasons in the top flight, **Aarau** drop down after finishing a point adrift of Vaduz.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Basle and **Young Boys** will both start in the third qualifying round of the Champions League. **Sion** go straight into the Europa League group phase, while **Zurich** enter the Europa League third qualifying round, with **Thun** in the second qualifying round.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

resigned halfway through the season and was replaced by Pierluigi Tami.

Lucerne got off to a disastrous start, managing only two wins in the first half of the season and reaching the winter break at the bottom. Alexander Frei, Switzerland's leading scorer who retired last year, quit as sporting director after only six months in the post and there was also a coaching change as Carlos Bernegger made way for Markus Babbel. Those changes seemed to do the trick and they climbed the table to finish fifth with a run which included two successive 6-2 wins.

Sion, unsurprisingly, were the only club to change coaches twice. Having failed to persuade former Italy defender Claudio Gentile to join up, president Christian Constantin handed the poisoned chalice to Frederic Chassot. He lasted two months before making way for Jochen Dries, who in turn was replaced by Didier Tholot, back for a third stint, three months later.

Tholot had previously left in 2010, since when no fewer than 17 different coaches have occupied the Sion hot seat. **WS**

Six of the best... Basle celebrate yet another Super League title

SUPER LEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BASLE	36	24	6	6	84	41	78
YOUNG BOYS	36	19	9	8	64	45	66
ZURICH	36	15	8	13	55	48	53
THUN	36	13	13	10	47	45	52
LUCERNE	36	12	11	13	54	46	47
ST GALLEN	36	13	8	15	57	65	47
SION	36	12	9	15	47	48	45
GRASSHOPPERS	36	11	10	15	50	56	43
VADUZ	36	7	10	19	28	59	31
AARAU	36	6	12	18	31	64	30

Finishing power...Gashi

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Shkelzen Gashi *(Basle)*	*21 goals*
Guillaume Hoarau *(Young Boys)*	*17 goals*
Marco Schneuwly *(Lucerne)*	*17 goals*

Highs and lows...Europe for Thun (in white) but relegation for Aarau

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	AARAU	BASLE	GRASSHOPPERS	LUCERNE	SION	ST GALLEN	THUN	VADUZ	YOUNG BOYS	ZURICH
AARAU		1-2	1-2	0-3	1-0	0-3	2-1	1-1	3-2	0-1
BASLE	3-0		2-0	3-0	1-1	0-2	1-1	3-1	3-1	4-1
GRASSHOPPERS	2-1	3-1		3-2	0-0	3-0	2-3	0-1	0-1	1-3
LUCERNE	1-1	0-3	1-1		1-1	1-2	0-0	0-0	1-2	1-1
SION	2-2	2-3	3-3	3-1		1-0	0-0	1-0	0-1	1-3
ST GALLEN	2-2	2-1	3-0	2-1	2-0		1-0	3-3	2-2	0-2
THUN	0-0	2-3	3-2	3-2	2-1	3-1		1-0	0-1	2-1
VADUZ	1-0	0-4	1-1	1-1	1-0	2-2	0-1		0-2	1-4
YOUNG BOYS	1-1	0-1	4-0	3-2	2-1	4-2	1-1	0-1		2-1
ZURICH	0-0	1-2	1-0	2-3	4-1	1-1	2-1	3-0	2-1	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	AARAU	BASLE	GRASSHOPPERS	LUCERNE	SION	ST GALLEN	THUN	VADUZ	YOUNG BOYS	ZURICH
AARAU		2-1	0-1	2-6	0-1	0-2	3-2	0-1	1-1	0-0
BASLE	6-0		2-0	1-2	1-1	4-3	3-0	1-0	0-0	5-1
GRASSHOPPERS	3-1	2-4		1-0	0-0	2-0	0-0	1-1	2-2	0-2
LUCERNE	4-0	1-4	2-0		3-0	6-2	0-0	2-0	1-1	0-1
SION	1-0	0-1	0-5	2-2		3-0	3-0	4-0	6-2	1-2
ST GALLEN	5-1	2-2	1-1	0-0	0-1		2-1	1-2	3-1	1-4
THUN	1-1	2-2	2-2	1-0	2-1	4-1		4-0	0-0	2-2
VADUZ	0-2	1-3	0-1	0-2	0-2	3-1	1-1		0-1	2-2
YOUNG BOYS	2-2	4-2	4-2	0-1	3-2	3-1	4-0	2-1		3-0
ZURICH	0-0	1-2	4-3	0-1	0-1	1-2	0-1	2-2	0-1	

Distant second...Young Boys

MEHMET DEMIRCAN

Wesley Sneijder
(Galatasaray)
The 30-year-old Dutchman had his most productive season since moving to Turkey from Internazionale in 2013, scoring 14 goals and creating six in all competitions. Gala didn't lose a game all term in which their talisman scored.

Gun attack on team bus shocks a nation

Full contact...Yasin Oztekin (left) of Galatasaray and Beskitas' Tolgay Arslan clash during their Istanbul derby

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Ozan Tufan
(Bursaspor)
The 20-year-old can play anywhere in midfield and is said to be on the radar of such clubs as Manchester United and Arsenal. Scored his first goal for the senior national side in September, against Denmark.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Hamza Hamzaoglu
(Galatasaray)
Took over from Cesare Prandelli in November with Gala second and steered the club to the championship.

CUP WINNERS
Playing at opponents Bursaspor's home ground, Burak Yilmaz's hat-trick gave **Galatasaray** a 3-2 victory to complete their first domestic double since 2000.

RELEGATED
Balikesirspor, **Karabukspor** and **Erciyesspor**.

PROMOTED
Kayserispor, **Osmanlispor** and **Antalyaspor**.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Galatasaray are in the Champions League group stage, with **Fenerbahce** in the qualifiers. **Besiktas**, **Trabzonspor** and **Istanbul BB** are in the Europa League.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

One of the most exciting seasons for the past decade or so helped consign match-fixing concerns to the past. Unfortunately, the latest domestic campaign was still overshadowed by frightening events off the pitch.

Teams such as Fenerbahce, Besiktas and Galatasaray are used to having stones and fireworks thrown at their bus on the way to and from games, but the fact a gun was fired at the Fener vehicle as the team returned from a match at Caykur Rizespor sent shockwaves through the country. The unknown attacker – who has yet to be caught – shot and wounded the driver. The league programme was suspended for a week while Turkish football considered the implications of such an action.

Although such a traumatic incident cannot have failed to impact upon the Fenerbahce team, it does not alter the fact that Galatasaray deserved to win the league. Despite changing coaches and

Motivator...Bilic kept Besiktas in title hunt

witnessing huge upheaval in the boardroom during the season, Gala still managed to do the double and collect a fourth star for their shirts with a 20th championship.

Despite never having been in charge of a big Istanbul club, Hamza Hamzaoglu knew what Galatasaray are all about, having played for the club as a winger. After a disastrous Champions League group – one draw, just four goals scored and 19 conceded – coach Cesare Prandelli was dismissed.

Hamzaoglu was offered the Italian's job on the day that his father died and, during the presentation ceremony after winning the Turkish Cup, he was in tears as he dedicated the trophy to his father.

Early pace-setters Besiktas failed to

> "Everything went well until the team was assaulted by gunfire"
> Fenerbahce coach Ismail Kartal

cope with the pressure and finished in third place. And in Turkey that means one thing: the sacking of the coach. However, Slaven Bilic should be given some respect for keeping Besiktas in the championship race for so long, considering he did so in a season in which his side did not play a single game at home due to the rebuilding of their old stadium.

Bilic was replaced by former national coach coach Senol Gunes, whose Bursaspor side stole the show with the most spectacular, attacking football. With Brazilian striker Fernandao's goals winning him the golden boot, Bursa provided real competition for the nation's big four. **WS**

SUPER LIG 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GALATASARAY	34	24	5	5	60	35	77
FENERBAHCE	34	22	8	4	60	29	74
BESIKTAS	34	21	6	7	55	32	69
ISTANBUL BB	34	15	14	5	49	30	59
TRABZONSPOR	34	15	12	7	58	48	57
BURSASPOR	34	16	9	9	69	44	57
MERSIN IY	34	13	8	13	54	48	47
KONYASPOR	34	12	10	12	30	39	46
GENCLERBIRLIGI	34	10	10	14	46	44	40
GAZIANTEPSPOR	34	11	7	16	31	48	40
ESKISEHIRSPOR	34	9	12	13	45	52	39
AKHISAR	34	9	11	14	41	51	38
KASIMPASA	34	9	10	15	56	73	37
CAYKUR R'SPOR	34	9	9	16	41	55	36
SIVASSPOR	34	9	9	16	43	50	36
KARABUKSPOR	34	7	7	20	44	64	28
K ERCIY'SPOR	34	5	12	17	43	62	27
BALIKESIRSPOR	34	6	9	19	48	69	27

TOP GOAL SCORERS

Fernandao *(Bursaspor)*	*22 goals*
Demba Ba *(Besiktas)*	*18 goals*
Oscar Cardozo *(Trabzonspor)*	*17 goals*

Close...Galatasaray were pushed all the way by Fenerbahce (in yellow)

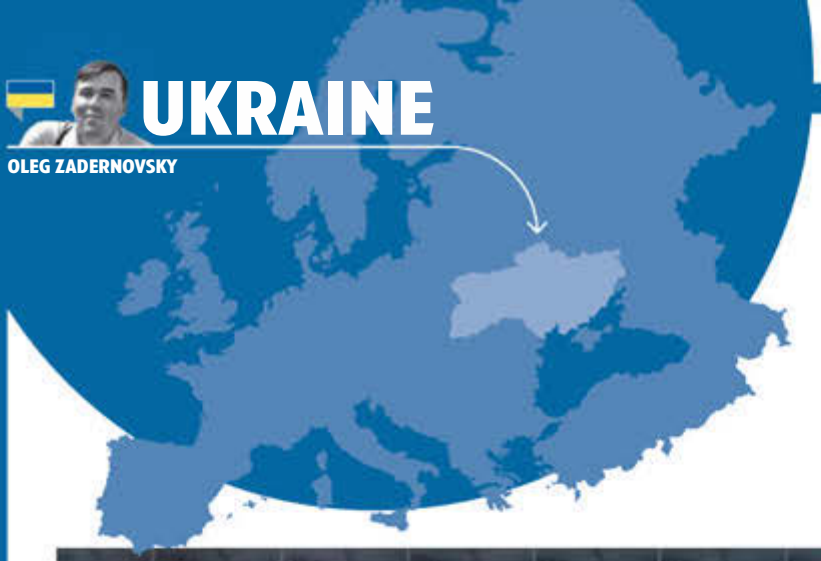
KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	AKHISAR BELEDIYESPOR	BALIKESIRSPOR	BESIKTAS	BURSASPOR	CAYKUR RIZESPOR	ESKISEHIRSPOR	FENERBAHCE	GALATASARAY	GAZIANTEPSPOR	GENCLERBIRLIGI	ISTANBUL BB	KARABUKSPOR	KASIMPASA	KAYSERI ERCIYESSPOR	KONYASPOR	MERSIN IY	SIVASSPOR	TRABZONSPOR
AKHISAR BELEDIYESPOR		2-2	1-1	0-1	0-4	2-2	2-0	0-2	3-0	1-1	0-2	5-1	2-0	1-0	0-0	1-1	2-2	1-1
BALIKESIRSPOR	1-2		0-1	0-5	2-2	4-1	0-1	2-0	1-1	0-1	1-2	4-2	5-3	1-1	0-1	1-3	1-3	2-2
BESIKTAS	3-1	2-2		3-2	1-1	1-1	0-2	0-2	1-1	2-1	0-0	2-1	2-0	5-1	0-1	2-1	3-2	3-0
BURSASPOR	3-1	4-2	0-1		1-1	2-2	1-1	0-2	2-0	3-1	4-1	7-1	5-1	3-0	0-0	2-1	3-0	3-3
CAYKUR RIZESPOR	3-1	2-2	1-2	0-1		3-0	1-5	1-1	0-1	1-1	0-2	0-3	1-3	1-1	1-1	0-4	2-1	0-2
ESKISEHIRSPOR	1-3	2-2	1-0	0-0	1-2		1-1	1-2	1-3	0-2	0-1	1-1	4-1	2-1	2-1	2-0	1-3	2-0
FENERBAHCE	1-2	4-3	1-0	1-0	2-1	2-2		1-0	1-0	2-1	2-0	3-2	2-0	1-1	2-1	1-0	4-1	0-0
GALATASARAY	2-1	3-1	2-0	2-2	2-0	0-0	2-1		1-0	1-0	2-2	4-2	2-1	3-1	1-0	3-2	2-1	0-3
GAZIANTEPSPOR	1-0	1-0	0-1	1-2	1-2	3-2	0-5	0-1		0-3	0-0	1-0	0-2	2-2	1-1	1-0	1-3	2-0
GENCLERBIRLIGI	0-0	3-1	0-2	1-2	0-2	1-2	2-1	1-1	2-0		1-0	2-2	5-2	0-0	5-0	1-2	0-0	1-1
ISTANBUL BB	4-0	1-0	1-2	0-0	3-1	1-1	2-2	4-0	1-0	3-1		2-2	1-1	3-1	0-0	2-2	2-1	1-1
KARABUKSPOR	2-1	0-1	1-2	3-2	2-0	2-2	1-2	1-2	0-0	2-1	0-0		0-0	1-2	0-1	0-2	2-1	3-0
KASIMPASA	2-2	2-3	1-5	5-3	3-1	1-0	0-3	2-3	4-2	2-2	0-1	2-1		3-3	2-0	2-2	0-0	1-1
KAYSERI ERCIYESSPOR	1-2	4-0	3-2	1-1	0-3	0-1	0-1	1-2	0-1	2-4	0-1	4-3	2-5		3-0	2-2	2-3	0-0
KONYASPOR	2-1	2-0	1-2	2-3	1-1	1-0	1-1	0-5	2-0	1-0	0-0	1-0	2-1	1-1		2-0	0-1	1-0
MERSIN IY	1-1	2-1	0-1	2-1	2-0	4-2	0-1	0-1	0-1	1-1	2-2	2-1	6-2	1-1	3-1		2-0	1-5
SIVASSPOR	2-0	1-1	0-1	4-1	0-1	1-1	2-3	2-3	1-2	1-0	0-2	2-0	1-1	1-1	0-0	1-2		1-1
TRABZONSPOR	2-0	3-2	0-2	1-0	3-2	1-4	0-0	2-1	4-4	4-1	3-2	3-2	1-1	2-1	3-2	3-1	3-1	

UKRAINE

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY



PLAYER OF THE SEASON
Andriy Yarmolenko
(Dynamo Kiev)
Dynamo turned down several bids for the wide man last year but are resigned to the 25-year-old leaving this summer. Scored 14 goals in 26 league games this term and was joint-top of the assists table with 11.

Doubling up...Dynamo celebrate their Cup Final victory over Shakhtar

Dynamo triumph despite ongoing crisis

War in the south east of the country, following Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula, meant that football in Ukraine was not without its problems last season.

The first victims of the huge instability were SC Tavriya and FC Sevastopol, with both teams more or less dying after the Crimean occupation. Somehow they managed to finish the 2013-14 campaign before being allowed to register for the third tier of the Russian league structure under new names. However, after pressure from UEFA, they lost even that highly disputable status and are now little more than amateur sides.

Of the remaining 14 teams that contested the latest Ukrainian Premier League, four had to uproot themselves and take shelter elsewhere. Defending champions Shakhtar Donetsk, Metalurh Donetsk, Olympik Donetsk and Chornomorets Odessa based themselves in Kiev and Lviv, Zorya Luhansk moved to Zaporizhia, and Illichivets Mariupol played at the old and unfashionable Meteor stadium in Dnipropetrovsk.

So, with Dynamo playing almost as many "away" fixtures in Kiev as they did home games, Serhiy Rebrov's side took full advantage to return the title to their trophy cabinet after an absence of six years. Going through the entire domestic campaign unbeaten – other than in July's Super Cup – they also added the Ukrainian Cup, beating Shakhtar 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw in a game marred by crowd trouble, to complete the double for the first time since 2007.

Team work...Rebrov (left) and Riancho

> "Many in Ukraine see Shakhtar as the enemy. They call us separatists or terrorists"
> Shakhtar Donetsk coach Mircea Lucescu

"Naturally we had the advantage," admitted Dynamo's Dutch international winger Jeremain Lens. "It was weaker in the league because some clubs from the eastern part of Ukraine were forced to play away from their own grounds while we played at home almost every week."

In his first full season in charge, Rebrov built a well-balanced and highly competitive side, capitalising on their opponents' weaknesses and producing a style of football that at times drew comparisons with the great Dynamo teams built by legendary coach Valeriy Lobanovskyi. Rebrov's charges underlined their superiority by taking four points off

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON
Lukasz Teodorczyk
(Dynamo Kiev, left)
Scored three goals in four games before leaving Lech Poznan last August and at the end of the season he picked up league winners' medals in both Poland and Ukraine. Injured in the Cup semi-final and missed the Final.

COACH OF THE SEASON
Serhiy Rebrov
(Dynamo Kiev)
Dynamo hadn't won the title since 2009 when he took charge in April last year, but after a first full season as coach he had led the club to an impressive domestic double and the quarter-finals of the Europa League.

CUP WINNERS
Keeper Oleksandr Shovkovskiy saved two spot-kicks on his 600th appearance for **Dynamo Kiev** as they beat Shakhtar 5-4 on penalties after a goalless 120 minutes in the Final.

RELEGATED
Illichivets Mariupol drop to the Ukrainian First League.

PROMOTED
Oleksandria were champions of the second tier.

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS
Dynamo Kiev go into the Champions League group stage while **Shakhtar** are in the third qualifying round. **Dnipro**, **Zorya** and **Vorskla** are in the Europa League.

TEAM OF THE SEASON

Shakhtar, while winning home and away against Dnipro. "It is very pleasing that we are the champions again," said Dynamo president and owner Ihor Surkis. "The fact that this team has great potential is obvious, but only under the obligatory condition of continuing the development of every member of the side."

Rebrov was greatly assisted by Spanish coach Raul Riancho, and between them they found the right blend of experience and youth-team graduates.

At the age of 40, the oldest member of the squad and team captain Oleksandr Shovkovskyi won his 13th title, while 20-year-old defender Mykyta Burda, midfielders Vitaliy Buyalskyi (22), Denys

Trouble...flares are thrown during the Cup Final

Harmash (25), Serhiy Rybalka (25) and Yevhen Chumak (19) gained their first. Another Dynamo academy prodigy, Andriy Yarmolenko, was the team's outstanding performer, scoring 14 goals from the right flank – one less than fellow academy graduate Artem Kravets. At the back, Austrian international Aleksandar Dragovic was a central component of a rearguard that conceded just 12 goals in the league.

Shakhtar coach Mircea Lucescu naturally presented a good case for why his side were dethroned, arguing: "There is a civil war in Ukraine. We have spent a long time away from home and almost a year living in hotels.

"We trained in a forest outside Kiev. We

Gone...Sevastopol were victims of the strife in east Ukraine

were without our beautiful, modern Donbass Arena. We were constantly travelling, flying to matches on a plane. Many in Ukraine see Shakhtar as the enemy. They call us separatists or terrorists. But summing up the season, I can say that we managed to overcome all the difficulties by finishing second and obtaining a Champions League place."

Dnipro did their best to challenge the big two, but ultimately fell short, finishing third in the league, knocked out of the Ukrainian Cup in the semi-finals by Shakhtar and beaten by Sevilla in the Europa League Final.

While fans of the big clubs will spend the summer worrying whether their best players will leave – with Yarmolenko, Shakhtar's Douglas Costa and Eugen Konopliyanka of Dnipro all being given permission to move on – some will just be happy that there is a league to follow at all after recent events away from the game. **WS**

PREMIER LEAGUE 2014-15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
DYNAMO	26	20	6	0	65	12	66
SHAKHTAR	26	17	5	4	71	21	56
DNIPRO	26	16	6	4	47	17	54
ZORYA	26	13	6	7	40	31	45
VORSKLA	26	11	9	6	35	22	42
METALIST[1]	25	8	11	6	34	32	35
VOLYN	26	9	7	10	38	44	34
M'RH DONETSK	26	6	10	10	27	38	28
M'RH ZAP'HYA	26	6	8	12	20	40	26
OLIMPIK	26	7	5	14	24	64	26
CHORNOMORETS[1]	25	3	11	11	15	31	20
HOVERLA	26	3	10	13	22	47	19
KARPATY[2]	26	5	9	12	22	31	15
ILLICHIVETS	26	3	5	18	25	55	14

[1] Chornomorets v Metalist match not played
[2] deducted 9pts for failing to comply with contract obligations

TOP GOALSCORERS

Alex Teixeira *(Shakhtar)*	*17 goals*
Eric Bicfalvi *(Volyn Lutsk)*	*17 goals*
Artem Kravets *(Dynamo)*	*15 goals*

Big clash...Dynamo's Yarmolenko (left) tangles with Luiz Adriano of Shakhtar

KEY

Home win	Away win
0-0	Score draw
No fixture	

HOME TEAM \ AWAY TEAM	CHERNOMORETS	DNIPRO	DYNAMO KIEV	HOVERLA UZHHOROD	ILLICHIVETS MARIUPOL	KARPATY LVIV	METALIST KHARKIV	METALURH DONETSK	METALURH ZAPORIZHYA	OLIMPIK DONETSK	SHAKHTAR DONETSK	VOLYN LUTSK	VORSKLA POLTAVA	ZORYA LUHANSK
CHERNOMORETS		0-3	0-2	1-1	0-0	0-0	DNP	2-2	0-0	4-0	0-2	1-0	1-0	0-0
DNIPRO	2-1		0-3	1-1	1-0	4-0	0-0	1-1	1-0	5-0	3-2	5-0	1-1	0-2
DYNAMO KIEV	2-0	1-0		6-0	5-0	0-0	3-0	3-0	2-2	0-0	1-0	4-1	1-0	2-2
HOVERLA UZHHOROD	0-0	0-0	0-4		2-1	2-2	2-2	1-0	0-1	0-1	3-7	0-0	0-0	1-2
ILLICHIVETS MARIUPOL	3-3	0-1	1-4	2-2		1-0	1-3	1-1	1-2	4-1	2-6	1-2	1-2	2-1
KARPATY LVIV	2-0	0-1	0-1	1-0	1-0		3-3	0-1	1-2	4-1	0-2	0-2	0-0	1-2
METALIST KHARKIV	0-0	2-5	1-2	1-0	3-1	0-0		1-0	2-1	0-0	2-2	3-3	0-2	4-2
METALURH DONETSK	1-0	0-2	0-6	0-0	3-0	1-1	1-1		1-1	4-2	2-1	1-2	1-1	0-0
METALURH ZAPORIZHYA	0-0	0-1	2-4	2-1	2-0	2-1	0-0	0-1		2-2	0-4	1-1	0-3	0-1
OLIMPIK DONETSK	2-1	0-5	0-1	1-2	3-2	1-0	2-1	3-2	0-0		0-5	1-3	1-1	1-0
SHAKHTAR DONETSK	5-0	0-0	0-0	4-1	3-0	2-2	1-0	2-0	2-0	6-0		6-2	3-0	0-1
VOLYN LUTSK	1-1	0-1	1-3	4-2	3-1	0-2	0-3	1-1	3-0	4-0	0-0		2-2	1-2
VORSKLA POLTAVA	2-0	1-3	0-3	2-0	0-0	2-0	0-0	2-1	5-0	3-1	1-2	2-0		2-0
ZORYA LUHANSK	1-0	2-1	2-2	2-1	1-0	1-1	1-2	4-2	3-0	5-1	1-4	1-2	1-1	

BEST OF THE REST

Albania

SUPERLIGA

by John Holmesdale

HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON

Skenderbeu were unbeaten at home all season on their way to a fifth successive championship.

CUP WINNERS

Laci won the cup for the second time in three years, beating Kukesi 2-1 in the Final with goals from Emiljano Veliaj and Segun Adeniyi. Edon Hasani scored a consolation goal for Kukesi, who have now lost both Cup Finals in which they have played.

WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE

Korce-based league winners **Skenderbeu** will take their place in the second qualifying round of the Champions League. League runners-up **Kukesi**, third-place **Partizani Tirana** and cup winners **Laci** enter the Europa League in the first qualifying round.

Austria

AUSTRIAN BUNDESLIGA

by Brian Homewood

A sixth title in the 10 seasons since Dietmar Mateschtiz's energy-drinks company took over was entirely predictable, although **Red Bull Salzburg** were not nearly as dominant as in the previous campaign when they wrapped things up with eight games to spare. The Red Bull takeover still rankles with many fans.

Despite keeper Peter Gulacsi being sent off, **Red Bull Salzburg** won a second consecutive double, beating Austria Vienna 2-0 in the Final.

Double winners **Red Bull** – who have yet to reach the group stage since the takeover – and league runners-up **Rapid Vienna** enter the Champions League in the third qualifying round, while **Altach**, **Sturm Graz** and **Wolfsberger** – third, fourth and fifth respectively – play in the Europa League.

Bosnia

PREMIER LEAGUE

by Sasa Ibrulj

Going into the final game one point ahead of Zeljeznicar, **Sarajevo** secured the Premier League title for the first time since 2007, and their third overall, with a 3-1 win at home to Sloboda Tuzla. Backed by Vincent Tan's money, the champions lost just twice in the league all season.

Despite going a goal down and in the second leg and having Jadranko Bogicevic sent off, **Olimpic** won the cup for the first time, beating Siroki Brijeg on penalties after a 2-2 draw on aggregate.

Domestic champions **Sarajevo** will play in the second qualifying round of the Champions League, while city rivals **Zeljeznicar** and cup winners **Olimpic** participate in the Europa League, where they will be joined by **Zrinjski** from Mostar, who finished the season in third place.

Bulgaria

A GROUP

by Rumen Paytashev

Top of the table at Christmas, CSKA Sofia went 12 games without a win, and 960 minutes without a goal, to let in **Ludogorets** for a fourth consecutive league title – matching CSKA's run from 1980 to 1983.

Cherno More won their first silverware with a 2-1 victory over Levski Sofia. Down to 10 men when midfielder Santos was sent off and trailing 1-0, Bacari took the game into extra-time, where Mathias Coureur scored the winner – which meant Levski had failed to win a trophy for the first time since 2009.

Ludogorets will play in the second qualifying round of the Champions League, while **Cherno More**, **Beroe** and **Litex Lovech** go into the Europa League. With third-place Lokomotiv Sofia denied a licence, the capital will not have not a team in European competition for the first time.

Croatia

PRVA HNL

by Zdravko Reic

Dinamo Zagreb were crowned champions for a 10th successive season, finishing 13 points clear. They set a national record by going through the league season unbeaten – one of only three sides in Europe to achieve the feat this term.

The double was completed as **Dinamo** beat RNK Split 4-2 on penalties, after a goalless 120 minutes, to win the Cup for a 13th time. Split, who were making their Final debut, had their 22-year-old defender Nino Galovic sent off in extra-time while coach Zoran Vulic was also shown the red card, for dissent.

A place in the second qualifying round of the Champions League awaits **Dinamo**. **HNK Rijeka** and **Hajduk Split**, who finished second and third respectively, enter the second qualifying round of the Europa League, while **Lokomotiva** of Zagreb are in the competition's first qualifying round.

Cyprus

FIRST DIVISION

by Nick Bidwell

APOEL completed their second successive domestic double, wrapping up the title for the 24th time with a 4-2 victory at Ermis Aradippou on the final day of the season. The Nicosia-based club finished three points ahead of AEK from Larnaca and Limassol's Apollon.

Four days before their league triumph, **APOEL** won a 21st Cypriot Cup with a 4-2 victory over AEL in the Final. George Efrem scored twice with Tomas De Vincenti and ex-Liverpool defender John Arne Riise also on target.

APOEL enter the Champions League in the second qualifying round, while **AEK** will participate in the Europa League at the second qualifying stage. **Apollon** and **Omonia** from Nicosia, who finished fourth in the title race, enter the Europa League at the first qualifying round stage.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED

Having been promoted to the SuperLiga the previous season, **Elbasani** and **Apolonia Fier** make an immediate return the First Division after finishing adrift in the bottom two places of the top flight. They will be replaced by **Bylis Ballsh** and **Terbuni Puke**.

Wiener Neustadt, who were only founded in 2008 when they took over the licence of SC Schwanenstadt, finished five points adrift at the bottom and ended a six-year spell in the top flight. They will be replaced by **Mattersburg**, who return to the Bundesliga two years after being relegated.

Mladost Velika Obarska and **Zvijezda**, in the bottom two places for most of the season, were relegated and will be replaced by **Rudar** and **Mladost Doboj Kakanj**. Next season the top flight will be reduced from 16 to 12 teams, with six going down and two coming up from the second tier.

The two teams who were promoted to the top flight last season, **Marek** from Dupnitsa and **Haskovo**, made a hasty return to where they came from. They will be replaced by second-tier champions **Montana** – back after a two-year absence – and runners-up **Pirin Blagoevgrad**.

After eight seasons in the top flight, **Zadar** are replaced by **Inter Zapresic**, who return after two seasons in the second tier. Second-bottom Istra 1961 won a reprieve after Sesvete chose not to contest the promotion/relegation play-offs as their home stadium would not get a licence if they went up.

Othellos Athienou's first top-flight campaign was short but hardly sweet and they return to the Second Division after one season. With the top tier going back to 14 teams next term, three clubs are coming up – **Aris Limassol**, **Enosis Neon Paralimni** (who won the second tier) and **Pafos**.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON

Despite finishing second-best in both domestic competitions, no blame could be levelled at Kukesi striker **Pero Pejic**, who was the league's top scorer with 31 goals.

Another prolific season saw **Jonathan Soriano** score 31 goals in 32 league games for Red Bull Salzburg as he finished as the competition's top scorer. The 29-year-old Spaniard has scored a total of 88 goals in 93 Bundesliga games since being signed from Barcelona's B team in 2012.

Although midfielder Gojko Cimirot was one of the standout players in Sarajevo's title-winning season, top marks go to **Riad Bajic** of runners-up Zeljeznicar. The 21-year-old was the league's leading marksman with 15 goals in 27 games, the pick a superb 30-yard free-kick against Olimpic.

Spanish striker **Anete** of Levski was the top scorer with 14 goals. He scored the winner against Ludogorets in the cup semi-final and was also on target in their defeat by Cherno More in the Final. However, despite his best efforts, Levski could finish no better than seventh in the league.

Chilean striker **Angelo Henriquez**, on loan from Manchester United, scored 20 goals in 25 games for Dinamo. However, Andrej Kramaric topped the chart despite leaving HNK Rijeka for Leicester City in January.

At 37, Portuguese playmaker **Nuno Assis** is the oldest recipient of the Cypriot FA's player of the season award. A league winner with Benfica in 2005, he helped Omonia to a Europa League place next term.

COACH OF THE SEASON

Former Albania international **Mirel Josa** picked up his third successive championship winner's medal since taking charge of Skenderbeu in 2012. "Our team managed to keep their composure throughout the season," said the 52-year-old of his latest success.

Having taken over from Roger Schmidt, **Adi Hutter** rebuilt Red Bull Salzburg after losing a Champions League qualifier to Malmo and the turbulent departure of Sadio Mane to land the title.

Former Bosnia international **Mirza Varesanovic** is an obvious choice, having led Olimpic to their cup success against the odds. But the former Bordeaux and Olympiakos defender also deserves recognition for being one of only two coaches to survive the entire season at one club.

Georgi Dermendzhiev won his first title with Ludogorets and took them to the group stage of the Champions League – then announced he was stepping down after the last game of the season.

With a domestc double to add to last season's league title and the eight trophies he won with the club during his playing days, **Zoran Mamic** has known little other than success since returning to Dinamo 10 years ago.

After a spell as an assistant coach in Abu Dhabi with Al Jazira, former Spain and Bochum striker **Thomas Christiansen** enjoyed a fine first season in charge of AEK, inspiring the Larnaca-based club to second place in the league and booking their first European spot for four years.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON

Segun Adeniyi made an instant impact in the Europa League for Laci last term, scoring in his first two games and netting the winning spot-kick against Rudar of Slovenia. He was also on target in the Albanian Cup Final and managed 15 goals in the league.

Signed from French Ligue 2 club Istres, the 20-year-old Guinean central midfielder **Naby Keita** came on in leaps and bounds with his ability to win the ball and turn defence into attack.

Signed from Chinese club Dalian Aerbin last summer, Croatian striker **Leon Benko** could not play for Sarajevo until the second half of the season because of issues over paperwork. However, the 31-year-old still scored eight goals in 13 appearances in his new side's march to the title.

After spells with Rad in Serbia and Gent of Belgium, keeper **Bojan Jorgacevic** joined Levski from Kayseri Erciyesspor of Turkey in January and brought confidence to the team with his command of the box and his organisation. Despite interest from elsewhere, he says he will stay put for now.

Eleven goals in the league was a good return for winger **Marko Pjaca**, who joined Dinamo from Lokomotiva at the start of the season. Called into the Croatian senior squad for the first time, the pacy 21-year-old winger made his senior debut in a 2–0 friendly win against Cyprus in September.

A former member of the Nottingham Forest youth academy in England, 22-year-old defensive midfielder **Kostas Laifas** not only secured himself a permanent place in the Anorthosis side, he also made his senior international debut, against Andorra, in November.

Georgia

UMAGLESI LIGA
by Oleg Zadernovsky

HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON

Although they failed to beat runners-up Dinamo Batumi (losing 1-0 twice) and third-place Dinamo Tbilisi (drawing 0-0 and 2-2), **Dila** – from the mountain town of Gori – still won their first title. Dila striker Irakli Modebadze, who scored 16 goals, is five years older than his coach.

CUP WINNERS

Dinamo Tbilisi won a third successive Georgian Cup, beating Samtredia 5-0 in the Final. Manuel Onwu and Giorgi Papunashvili scored two each, and sub Davit Volkov one.

WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE

Dila enter the Champions League in the second qualifying round, while **Dinamo Tbilisi**, **Dinamo Batumi** and **Tskhinvali** all start the Europa League in the first qualifying round. For Tskhinvali, this will be their first-ever excursion into continental football.

Hungary

NB 1
by Peterjon Cresswell

Videoton won the league by a country mile, spending all bit two weeks of the season at the top.

Ferencvaros ended an 11-year wait for silverware when they beat Videoton 4-0 in the Hungarian Cup Final with a goal and two assists from Roland Varga. Two weeks later, they doubled their trophy haul for the season by winning the League Cup after they beat Debrecen 2-1 in the Final.

Videoton will enter the second qualifying round of the Champions League, while league runners-up and cup winners **Ferencvaros**, third-place **MTK** and **Debrecen**, who finished in fourth place, will start their continental season in the first qualifying round of the Europa League.

Israel

PREMIER LEAGUE
by Nick Bidwell

A 2-1 victory over closest challengers, Ironi Kiryat Shmona, wrapped up a third consecutive title for **Maccabi Tel Aviv** with two games to spare. It was a 22nd crown overall.

A hat-trick from Rade Prica helped **Maccabi Tel Aviv** to a 6-2 win over Hapoel Beer Sheva in the Final for their first domestic cup success for 10 years. Victory also meant the club completed its first league-and-cup double since 1996.

A spot in the second qualifying round of the Champions League was **Maccabi Tel Aviv**'s reward for their double-winning campaign. **Ironi Kiryat Shmona**, **Hapoel Be'er Sheva** and **Beitar Jerusalem** took the Europa League qualifying places.

Macedonia

FIRST LEAGUE
by Milorad Stojmanovski

Under new owner Sergey Samsonenko, Macedonia's richest club **Vardar** led the championship from pretty much all season on their way to winning their third title in four years and eighth in total. However, coach Sergey Andreyev had his critics, particularly after a cup quarter-final loss to Renova.

Last season's double winners **Rabotnicki** retained the Macedonian Cup with a 2-1 win over 10-man, bottom-of-the-league Teteks in the Final. They will be the only Macedonian club to be seeded when the draw is made for the preliminary rounds of next season's UEFA competitions.

Vardar will enter the Champions League in the second qualifying round, while **Rabotnicki** start in the first qualifying round of the Europa League. Runners-up **Shkendija** and third-place **Renova**, who are both based in the city of Tetovo, also take their place in the Europa League qualifiers.

Malta

PREMIER LEAGUE
by Domenic Aquilina

Hibernians lost just once in the league – and that was after they had wrapped up their first championship in six years. They led the table from start to finish to win the title for an 11th time.

Hibernians were denied the double as they lost 2-0 to Birkirkara in the FA Trophy Final. **Birkirkara** won the cup for the fifth time with goals from Mauricio Mazzetti and Rafael Ledesma, but it was not enough for coach Paul Zammit, who quit at the end of the season.

Hibernians enter the Champions League second qualifying round, while **Valletta** and third-place **Birkirkara** go into the Europa League first qualifying round, where they are joined by fourth-place **Balzan** as both cup finalists had already qualified for Europe.

Moldova

FIRST DIVISION
by Miron Goihman

Starting the last day in third place, **Milsami** won 2-1 with a late own goal at leaders Dacia to win the league on head-to-head records.

Just a few days after they surrendered the league title, Dacia lost 3-2 in extra-time to **Sheriff**, who won the cup for an eighth time. It was a first trophy at Sherif for coach Zoran Zekic, while Dacia have now lost all four Moldovan Cup Finals in which they have played.

League champions **Milsami** and cup winners **Sheriff** will play Champions League and Europa League qualifiers respectively. **Dacia** also enter the Europa League, but with fourth-place Tiraspol now dissolved, the remaining spot in the competition is likely to go to **Saxan**, who were fifth.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED

Having withdrawn from the league in April, **Zestafoni** were expelled from the top flight, while **WIT-Georgia** went down automatically and **Metalurgi Rustavi** lost a play-off. **Sapovnela**, **Saburtalo** and play-off winners **Lokomotivi Tbilisi** were promoted.

Papa and **Dunaujvaros** were automatically relegated from the top flight, while **Nyiregyhaza**, **Kecskemet**, **Gyor** and **Pecs** were demoted after being denied licences for next term. The 2015-16 camapign will, therefore, consist of 12 teams rather 16, with **Vasas** and **Bekescsaba** promoted.

Ashdod, whose last league victory came in the middle of January, were relegated along with **Hapoel Petah Tikva**. Their places in next term's top flight will be taken by **Bnei Yehuda Tel Aviv** and **Hapoel Kfar Saba**, who were the top two in Liga Leumit.

Despite bringing in Gjoko Hadzievski as their coach, the former national boss failed to win a game in eight months and **Pelister** dropped out of the top flight, along with **Teteks**, who reached the Cup Final for the fourth time in five years. **Shkupi** and **Mladost Carev Dvor** replaced them.

The bottom two, **Pieta Hotspurs** and **Zebbug Rangers**, will be replaced in the top flight next season by **Pembroke Athleta** and **St Andrews**, Meanwhile, Mosta preserved their place in the Premier League by beating Gzira United 2-0 in the play-off game.

Costuleni and **Veris** withdrew from the league before the turn of the year, while **Tiraspol** folded at the end of the campaign due to financial difficulties. To make next season's competition into a 10-team league, **Petrocub** and **Speranta** were promoted.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON

Having made his debut in the top flight for Baia Zugdidi aged 16, midfielder **Nika Kvekveskiri**'s sixth season at this level was his best yet. The 23-year-old's main role was orchestrating the Dila attack, but he also managed to score seven times himself as well.

Born in Serbia, naturalised Hungarian striker **Nemanja Nikolic** found the net 21 times in the league for champions Videoton. He also managed to secure a place in the national side.

The Israeli Premier League's top scorer for the second consecutive season, **Eran Zahavi**'s 27 goals were key to Maccabi Tel Aviv's success. Scored for 18 consecutive matches.

International left winger **Dejan Blazevski** returned to his homeland in December, joining Vardar from Khazar Lankaran of Azerbaijan, and scored eight goals in 14 games to help his side win the league. He was also the Macedonian player of the year in 2013, while playing for Turnovo.

The scorer of 16 important goals for Hibernians in the league, **Clayton Failla** was in impressive form throughout the campaign The 29-year-old attacking Malta wing-back capped a memorable season by becoming a father for the first time.

Sheriff's Brazilian striker **Ricardinho** was the league's leading scorer with 19 goals. During the first half of the season an impressive run saw him score 11 in 14 games

COACH OF THE SEASON

At the age of just 25, **Ucha Sosiashvili** led Dila to the title in his first season. "They say experience is key to success, but my example shows it can be the other way," says Sosiashvili.

Spaniard **Joan Carrillo** won the first major trophy of his coaching career with Videoton. Assistant coach for the previous three years, the 46-year-old replaced Jose Gomes at the start of the season. His previous bosses have included Mauricio Pochettino (Espanyol) and Paulo Sousa (Videoton).

In addition to the league and State Cup, **Pako Ayestaran** also led Maccabi Tel Aviv to the Toto Cup for a first-ever Israeli treble. An assistant to Rafa Benitez at Liverpool for three years, he is being linked with a return to Anfield, where he would join Brendan Rodgers' staff.

A Macedonian league and cup winner when coach of Renova, **Vlatko Kostov** took charge of his hometown club Bregalnica Stip for a second time in January and saved a seemingly doomed side from relegation by losing just one of his 16 games in charge and conceding just three goals.

A former player with the club, 43-year-old **Branko Nisevic** took charge of Hibernians in May 2013 and said of his team's championship success: "We believed we could win the title from the very beginning. That is what we prepared for."

A former midfielder with the club, **Iurie Osipenco** made history with Milsami as the club based in Orhei – 25 miles north of the capital, Chisinau – won the title for the first time. The 40-year-old took over in June last year after a spell in charge of the national under-19 side.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON

In his first full season with the senior side, Dinamo Tbilisi's 19-year-old defender **Otar Kakabadze** played 23 games and was a member of the side that won the Super Cup and the Georgian Cup. An under-21 international, he won a bronze medal at the 2012 Under-17 Euros.

Eighteen-year-old defensive midfielder **Miklos Kitl** showed experience way beyond his years during an impressive season with troubled Kecskemet, who were demoted. A near ever-present in his first full senior campaign, he was also a regular for Hungary's under-21 side.

A resourceful and combative right-back or central defender, **Eyad Abu Abaid** established himself as an automatic choice for Maccabi Netanya this term. The 20-year-old is a graduate of Beitar Nes Tubruk – one of Israel's most productive youth acadamies.

Bregalnica Stip goalkeeper **Filip Gachevski** set a new league record by going 912 minutes without letting a goal in as his side beat the drop.

Birkirkara defender **Zach Muscat** progressed from the national under-21 side to become a regular in the senior set-up. A consistent performer with a big future in the game.

Nineteen-year-old attacking midfielder **Vadim Paireli** established himself as a key member of a Sheriff side that won the Moldovan Cup in only his second term as a first-team regular. He has also been involved with the national set-up at under-19 and under-21 level.

Montenegro

FIRST LEAGUE

by Dejan Panic

HOW THE LEAGUE WAS WON

After two years of dominance from Sutjeska (below), they lost out by three points to **Rudar**, who were top all season and deserved a second title.

CUP WINNERS

Mladost Podgorica won their first major trophy, thanks to an extra-time own goal by Marko Markovic, with a 2-1 win against Petrovac, who had keeper Nemanja Popovic sent off for handling outside his box two minutes before the interval.

WHO QUALIFIED FOR EUROPE

Rudar enter the Champions League in the second qualifying round, while cup-winners **Mladost**, league runners-up **Sutjeska** and third-place **Buducnost** will all go into the first qualifying round of the Europa League.

N Ireland

NIFL PREMIERSHIP

by Roy Kitson

After an 18-year wait, **Crusaders** won their fifth title, finishing 10 points clear of Linfield. The last time they were champions, manager Stephen Baxter was playing up front for the club.

Glentoran beat Portadown 1-0 to win the cup for the second time in the last three years, with David Scullion scoring the only goal of the game. The Final was played at Glentoran's Oval home due to major construction work taking place at Windsor Road.

League winners **Crusaders** will start their Champions League campaign in the first qualifying round, with runners-up **Linfield** going into the first qualifying round of the Europa League, alongside third-place **Glenavon** and cup-winners **Glentoran**.

Serbia

SUPERLIGA

by Vladimir Novak

Despite losing Petar Skuletic and Danko Lazovic in the January transfer window without signing a new striker, and then sacking coach Marko Nikolic in mid-March, **Partizan** won the title quite comfortably to make it 26 in total and seven since 2008.

A solitary goal from Serbia under-21 international Slavoljub Srnic meant **Cukaricki** won the first trophy in their 89-year history as they claimed the Serbian Cup with a 1-0 victory to deny Partizan a fifth domestic double.

Partizan are in the Champions League qualifying round, while **Red Star**, **Cukaricki** and **Vojvodina** enter the Europa League.

Slovakia

FIRST LEAGUE

by Peterjon Cresswell

Going into the winter break, **Trencin** were three points adrift of Zilina, but a 10-game winning streak secured the title for a team with an average age of just under 22. Their maiden title saw them become the seventh side to be crowned champions of Slovakia.

Trencin also won the Slovak Cup for a first time, beating Senica on penalties in the Final after they had been pegged back to 2-2 in extra-time. Defender Milan Rundic scored the winning spot-kick.

Double winners **Trencin** will start in the second qualifying round of the Champions League, while **Zilina**, **Slovan Bratislava** and **Spartak Trnava** – who finished second through to fourth respectively – compete in the Europa League first qualifying round.

Slovenia

PRVA LIGA

by Peterjon Cresswell

Despite losing twice to runners-up Celje and being nine points adrift of Domzale after 16 games, **Maribor** were crowned champions for a fifth successive season.

Celje had seemingly done the hard work by seeing off Maribor with two late goals to win 3-2 in the semi-finals, but **Koper** surprised many by winning the Final 2-0 with goals from Denis Halilovic and Jaka Stromajer, even though they had Matej Palcic sent off in the closing stages.

Maribor can look forward to another campaign in the Champions League, starting at the second qualifying round stage, while **Celje**, **Domzale** and cup-winners **Koper** will all compete in the Europa League, entering the competition at the first qualifying round stage.

Wales

PREMIER LEAGUE

by Mel Thomas

As the league's only full-time outfit, **The New Saints** enjoy a massive advantage over all of their domestic opponents and they strolled to a fourth consecutive championship with five matches to spare. Such was their dominance, they lost just one game in Wales all season.

Victory in the Welsh Cup Final saw **The New Saints** become the first team since Rhyl in 2004 to win the domestic treble. They had already wrapped up the Premier League and League Cup by the time they saw off Newtown 2-0 in the Welsh Cup Final.

The New Saints enter the Champions League qualifiers, while Europa League places went to **Bala Town**, who finished runners-up in the league to secure their highest-ever placing, **Airbus UK Broughton**, who were third, and play-off winners **Newtown**.

RELEGATED/PROMOTED

Berane finished bottom of the league and were relegated with **Mogren** – who won the league in 2009 and 2011 – after they lost in the relegation/promotion play-offs 7-1 on aggregate to **Decic**, who go up with **Iskra**.

Institute were relegated after only one season in the top flight and they will be replaced by **Carrick Rangers**, who return for the first time in the three years. Warrenpoint Town retained their place after winning a promotion/relegation play-off against Bangor on penalties.

Radnicki Kragujevac and **Donji Srem** went down automatically, along with **Napredak Krusevac** who lost in the play-offs to **Metalac Gornji Milanovac**, who were promoted along with **Radnik Surdulica** and **Javor Ivanjica**.

Dukla Banska Bystrica were relegated after finishing bottom of the league, but 11th-place Podbrezova gained a reprieve as sixth-place **Kosice** were demoted after being refused a licence for next season. They will be replaced by **Zemplin Michalovce** and **Skalica**.

Bottom-placed **Radomlje** were out of their depth and were relegated, being replaced by **Krsko**. However, they were nearly joined by four-times champions Gorica who had to face Aluminij in a play-off and won 2-1 on aggregeate to avoid a first-ever stint in the second tier.

Last season's Europa League representatives **Prestatyn Town** were relegated with **Cefn Druids**, who dropped back down after only one season. They will be replaced by **Llandudno** – who will make their debut in the Premier League – and **Haverfordwest County**.

PLAYER OF THE SEASON

Goran Vujovic, a 28-year-old striker with Sutjeska, finished the season as the league's top scorer with 21 goals and was rewarded for his achievement with a call-up to the Montenegro national team for the first time.

In his third season with Crusaders, 27-year-old winger **Paul Heatley** had a fine campaign and made a habit of scoring spectacular goals with his left foot. He was the league's second-top scorer with 27 goals, behind. Cliftonville's Joe Gormley who managed 31.

A Euro Under-21 runner-up with Serbia & Montenegro back in 2004, Cukaricki's 33-year-old playmaker **Igor Matic** scored 10 goals in the league and was a consistent performer throughout the season, captaining his side to cup success.

The return of Dutch winger **Gino Van Kessel** after the winter break made all the difference for Trencin in their push for the title. Still only 22, he managed to find the net every other game on average, including putting his side ahead in extra-time of the Slovak Cup Final.

Celje's 21-year-old winger **Benjamin Verbic** had a spring to remember, putting in some outstanding performances for the league runners-up, making his senior international debut and joining Copenhagen. He has also developed a habit of scoring vital goals.

Top scorer with 28 goals, **Chris Venables** of Aberystwyth Town was nominated as the player of the season in a vote among the Premier League's coaches. His goal tally was four more than his winning total for the previous season's campaign.

COACH OF THE SEASON

Playing some of the most attractive football in the country, **Aleksandar Nedovic** guided Mladost to victory in the Cup Final and fourth place in the league.

After taking charge in 2005, **Stephen Baxter** could not prevent Crusaders' first-ever relegation at the end of his first season. However, he put together a side that plays attractive football and saw off the challenge of Linfield and Cliftonville to lead his side to the Championship.

Third place in the league and victory in the cup represent a hugely successful season for **Vladan Milojevic** of Cukaricki. In five games against Belgrade's big two of Partizan and Red Star – including the Cup Final – he won two and drew two.

Former Trencin centre-back **Martin Sevela**, who has only been a coach since 2013, led his former club to the double with a team that included many youngsters.

Although he has the biggest budget and the strongest squad, **Ante Simundza** is under pressure at Maribor so he can be pleased with a second successive title.

Craig Harrison of The New Saints led his side to the treble, but was run close by Chris Hughes of Newtown, whose young side will be in Europe next term.

NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON

Bokelj's 19-year-old attacking midfielder **Luka Maras** was one of the best players in the league. He is also a member of Montenegro's under-19 side who, against all the odds, came very close to qualifying for this year's Euro Finals.

A product of the youth scheme, 19-year-old Crusaders winger **Gavin Whyte** broke into the first team in September and displayed a maturity beyond his years.

Red Star's 19-year-old keeper **Predrag Rajkovic** played his first full season as first choice at senior level.

Snapped up by Italian giants Internazionale while still in his teens, 21-year-old striker **Jakub Vojtus** returned to his homeland to play his first full campaign in the Slovak league for Spartak Trnava. Capped at under-21 level, his future looks promising once again.

An 18-year-old striker, **Alen Ozbolt** earned himself a regular place in the line-up of third-place Domzale, scoring three goals in his 18 appearances. Having been capped at under-16 and under-17 level, he is now a regular for the national under-19 side.

Connah's Quay winger **Sean Miller** claimed the best newcomer award after a terrific season, scoring 11 goals in 30 starts after joining the Nomads in August. His impressive performances saw him sign a two-year deal with the club in December.

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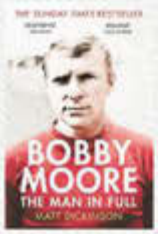

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Hot shot...Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo

MAY 14-JUNE 8, 2015

Global diary

A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Disgraced...Livermore

Thursday *May 14*

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors' Libertadores Cup game against River Plate is abandoned after visiting players are squirted with an irritant at the start of the second half. The game was goalless at the time, with River leading 1-0 from the first leg.
UKRAINE: Playing 450km from home due to the conflict in eastern Ukraine, Dnipro beat Napoli 1-0 in Kiev to win 2-1 on aggregate and reach the Europa League Final, where they will face holders Sevilla.

Friday *May 15*

BULGARIA: Ludogorets secure their fourth successive league title with a 4-1 win against Lokomotiv Sofia.
ENGLAND: Hull City suspend midfielder Jake Livermore after he tests positive for cocaine.
IRAN: On the last day of the league season, Tractor Sazi let slip a 3-1 lead to draw 3-3 at home to Naft Tehran and hand the title to Sepahan, who beat Saipa 2-0.

Saturday *May 16*

ALBANIA: Skenderbeu claim their fifth successive Super League title, with a game to spare, with a 2-0 victory over Flamurtari.
ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors are disqualified from the Libertadores Cup after some of their fans attacked River Plate players.
ARMENIA: Draws for Ulisses and Shirak hand Pyunik the league title to go with the Armenia Cup they won earlier in the month.
AZERBAIJAN: A goal from Dutch striker Leroy George gives Qarabag

AUSTRALIA

SIMON HILL

Victory's third title success

Final...Victory get the better of Sydney

Muscat's side win Premiership and Championship double

The fortunes of football in Australia have always been a roller-coaster ride, so it was no surprise that, in the year the Socceroos lifted the Asian Cup, the final act of the domestic season was an alarming tumble from the presentation stage by FFA chairman Frank Lowy.

Thankfully, the 84-year-old, who stands down in November after a decade of unparalleled achievement, was quickly on his feet and returned to present the trophy to the Grand Final winners, Melbourne Victory. But his stumble was a reminder that the sport is not yet entirely on solid ground in a country where three other football codes and cricket all vie for people's attentions.

Aside of Australia's triumph on home soil in January, which extended the domestic season deep into May, the main success story was Melbourne Victory. Kevin Muscat, who was once voted the game's most hated player, has transformed himself into a smart coach, and his pre-season recruitment paid dividends as the biggest club in the league won the Premiership and the Championship.

At the heart of Victory's success were Besart Berisha, who was recruited from last year's champions Brisbane Roar and contributed 15 goals and 10 assists, and the tricky Tunisia international Fahid Ben Khalfallah.

Their Grand Final win was a triumph, not just of skill, but fitness and tactical discipline, as they smothered the life out of Sydney. Victory captain Mark Milligan played his best game of the season in nullifying the Sky Blues' playmaker Milos Dimitrijevic, and Graham Arnold's team never looked like winning after Berisha had opened the scoring. Kosta Barbarouses and Leigh Broxham confirmed Victory's record-equalling third title with late goals in front of a capacity crowd at AAMI Park.

Sydney finished second in both the league and the finals – a fair return in Arnold's first season as coach. "Arnie" transformed the club's culture and playing style, and got a fantastic return out of Marc Janko, who was the league's top scorer. His mid-season acquisitions, Jacques Faty and Mickael Tavares, were crucial in helping propel the team to the Grand Final, thanks to a blistering second half of the season in which they scored goals for fun.

Perth Glory finished third, but that was adjusted to seventh after they were found guilty of major salary-cap breaches. It was a disappointing end to a promising season, during which Glory led the table for 17 weeks and reached the inaugural FFA Cup Final. Adelaide United beat Glory to win the cup, and on their day they were the best team to watch, but they suffered from inconsistency in the second half of the campaign.

Wellington Phoenix delighted many neutrals with their expansive football, but Ernie Merrick's team lost form at the wrong time and bowed meekly out of the play-offs, losing 2-0 at home to Melbourne City.

City were many people's pre-season title favourites, but the David Villa "guest player" experiment went horribly wrong, and the injuries that befell their other star names – Robert Koren and Damien Duff – summed up their fitful season.

Of the rest, Brisbane scraped into the finals thanks to

a 1-0 victory over Sumqayit and confirms back-to-back titles.
CROATIA: Chile striker Angelo Henriquez, who is on loan from Manchester United, scores a hat-trick for champions Dinamo Zagreb in a 4-0 home rout of arch-rivals Hajduk Split.
ENGLAND: Sadio Mane sets a new English top-flight record, scoring a hat-trick in 176 seconds as Southampton beat Aston Villa 6-1.
FRANCE: With a game to spare, Paris Saint-Germain make it three league titles in a row with a 2-1 victory at Montpellier. Evian are relegated after losing 2-1 at home to Saint-Etienne.
GERMANY: Bastian Schweinsteiger opens the scoring in his 500th game for Bayern Munich, but hosts Freiburg come back to win 2-1. Borussia Monchengladbach confirm third place, and direct entry to the Champions League group stage, with a 2-0 victory at Werder Bremen. Schalke secure a Europa League place with a 1-0 win at Paderborn.
ITALY: Frosinone, who were only promoted to Serie B last season, will play in Serie A next term for the first time in their history after a 3-1 victory over Crotone.
MOROCCO: A hat-trick from Malick Evouna in their penultimate match of the season gives Wydad a 3-0 victory at Hassania Agadir and secures a first title in five years.
SLOVENIA: Maribor make it five league titles in a row with a 1-0 victory over Domzale.

History...Ingolstadt celebrate promotion ahead of a first season in the German top flight

Sunday *May 17*

AUSTRALIA: Melbourne Victory beat Sydney 3-0 in the A-League Grand Final with goals from Besart Berisha, Kosta Barbarouses and Leigh Broxham.
FRANCE: Lyon striker Alexandre Lacazette is named player of the year, while the Ligue 1 coach award went to Paris Saint-Germain's Laurent Blanc.
GERMANY: Ingolstadt are promoted to the Bundesliga for the first time with a 2-1 win over RB Leipzig.
ITALY: Domenico Berardi, who scored all four goals as Sassuolo beat Milan 4-3 last season, gets a hat-trick as they beat the same opponents 3-2 this term.
PERU: Ramon Blanco sends off ➤

Champions...Victory add the 2015 Grand Final success to the A-League trophies they won in 2007 and 2009

the issues in Perth, but the deposed champions, like Central Coast Mariners, have financial problems. The situation is even worse for Newcastle Jets, who finished bottom and had their A-League licence terminated by Football Federation Australia (FFA) after owner Nathan Tinkler put the club into voluntary administration.

Western Sydney Wanderers paid the price for winning the Asian Champions League by having their poorest season yet domestically, though their heavy travel schedule was a contributing factor.

With A-League attendances again averaging around 13,000 and talk of an improved TV deal in the offing, all in all this latest season has been one of promise, even if some structural problems remain. But, as Frank Lowy would no doubt explain, football in Australia is always a case of one step forward, two steps back. WS

Victorious...Ben Khalfallah

● **PLAYER OF THE SEASON**
Fahid Ben Khalfallah (Melbourne Victory)
The Tunisian's career was revitalised by the switch down under – and the good news for Victory is that he will be staying after agreeing a new contract.

● **COACH OF THE SEASON**
Kevin Muscat (Melbourne Victory)
Won the double in his first full season and became the first man to win a Grand Final as both a player and a coach.

Record...Muscat

● **NEWCOMER OF THE SEASON**
Marc Janko (Sydney)
Marquee players can struggle to live up to the hype and he took a while to settle, but 16 goals and the golden boot was exactly the sort of return his coach, Graham Arnold, had predicted.

➤ four Alianza Lima players in less than three minutes as they lose 1-0 at home to Real Garcilaso. Alianza coach Guillermo Sanguinetti also sees red after going onto the pitch to remonstrate with the referee.
PORTUGAL: Benfica retain their league title with a goalless draw at Vitoria Guimaraes as Porto are held 1-1 at Belenenses. Already-relegated Penafiel beat Gil Vicente and take their opponents down with them. They will be joined by Arouca, who lose 2-1 to Vitoria Setubal.
RUSSIA: Krasnodar twice surrender the lead to draw 2-2 at home to bottom-of-the-league Torpedo Moscow and hand the title to Zenit, who draw 1-1 at Ufa.
SPAIN: Lionel Messi scores the only goal of the game as Barcelona win at defending champions Atletico Madrid to claim their 23rd Liga title.
SWEDEN: Danish duo Lasse Vibe and Soren Rieks score second-half goals as Gothenburg come from behind to beat Orebro in the Swedish Cup Final.
SWITZERLAND: A goalless draw with Young Boys seals a sixth successive league title for Basle.
UKRAINE: Dynamo Kiev end Shakhtar Donetsk's five-year reign by reclaiming the title with a 1-0 victory over Dnipro.
VENEZUELA: Deportivo Tachira are crowned national champions as Jorge Rogas' penalty gives them a 1-0 aggregate victory over Trujillanos in the Grand Final.

Monday *May 18*

BRAZIL: Palmeiras striker Dudu is banned for six months for pushing the referee during a Sao Paulo state championship game earlier this month against Santos.
CUBA: National coach Raul Valentin's suspension for directing offensive and racist language at the referee during and after a match against Venezuela in November at the Central American and Caribbean Games is set at five games by regional governing body CONCACAF.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Viktoria Plzen wrap up the title with two games spare, beating Vysocina Jihlava 2-0.
MEXICO: Marco Fabian scores a hat-trick as Guadalajara beat Atlas 4-1 and progress to the clausura semi-finals, where they are joined by Queretaro, who beat Veracruz 4-3 on aggregate.
TURKEY: A 1-0 defeat by Konyaspor ends Besiktas' hopes of winning the title. Rizespor's 3-1 win over Akhisar Belediyespor sees Karabukspor and Balikesirspor relegated.
USA: Los Angeles FC, the new ➤

Guam

JOHN DUERDEN

Players encouraged to go overseas

English coach has big plans for Pacific island's national side

Qualification for the 2018 World Cup started in March as the 12 lowest-ranked Asian teams played each other on a home-and-away basis for the right to play in the group stage with the rest of the continent's teams. Guam were one of the 34 given a bye – which is about as good as it gets for the northern Pacific islanders on the international stage.

Before June 11, when they took their first step on the road to Russia with a home game against Turkmenistan, their only past qualification attempt was for the 2002 World Cup – an adventure which ended with 19-0 and 16-0 defeats to Iran and Tajikistan respectively.

Languishing on the wrong side of 200 in FIFA's rankings, there seemed little hope for the American-administered territory's future. However, such results now look to be very much in the past for one of the most ambitious federations in the world. Not long ago, Guam had climbed to 160 in the rankings, level with Indonesia and India, which are countries with populations hundreds of times greater than 170,000.

Recent results are there for all to see. In March, Guam were invited to Singapore's new national stadium for a friendly and they outplayed the four-time south-east Asian champions, who were lucky to escape with a 2-2 draw. The previous November, Guam won their group in the first preliminary round of qualification for the 2015 East Asian Cup and finished level on points in the next stage with Hong Kong and above Taiwan, two teams that regularly used to thrash them.

The improvement is no fluke, with FA president Richard Lai using FIFA Goal project money to develop facilities and English coach Gary White, who was hired in 2012, making good progress. As well as being one of only 16 people to graduate from the FA's Elite Coach programme, 40-year-old White has also passed US Soccer's highest coaching course and is currently studying for Japan's SQ-Licence, which is recognised as the best coaching qualification in Asia.

He also has plenty of experience outside the classroom too, leaving the British Virgin Islands in 1999

Switch...Los Angeles Galaxy's DeLaGarza played in two friendlies for the USA, but has now opted to represent Guam

– Andre Villas-Boas arrived a year later – to take over the Bahamas.

"When you work for a developing country then it's not just about the national team," says White. "Guam spent years building a youth league and clubs, and there had been a lot of infrastructure development projects with Richard Lai at the helm.

"I had a three-point plan: make the men's national team competitive so younger kids had something to look up to and aim for; create an elite development programme for the under-eights, 10s, 12s etc which feeds the youth national teams; and then coaching education, developing better coaches."

Now Guam has scholarship programmes for youngsters to go to college in the United States and then go to MLS.

"We look after players," continues White. "When I look at the academy now, it is now being run by local coaches. I am happy when I look at the players who were eight and now they are 11 and have had three years of good coaching, they are further ahead than the 15-year-olds."

> "We have a 10-year plan but we are way ahead of where we wanted to be"
> Guam coach Gary White

English boss...White was born in Southampton

With the structure in place, White can now focus "90 per cent of this time" on the national team.

"When I arrived I asked 'have we seen every player who is eligible to play for us?'" he adds. "Most were in the local league. For years, they had given everything but we needed players in higher-level leagues so when they come back for national-team games, they are already prepared. We told locals to get off the island and then cast a wide net in the US."

The first target was New England Revolution defender Ryan Guy and he was the catalyst for others, such as AJ DeLaGarza of LA Galaxy, to follow. "Out of the 23-man squad for the World Cup qualifiers, 15 are professional and it has been the result of a lot of hard work and flying around," says White. "This was all by design and not default, it was all part of the plan.

"We have a 10-year plan but we are way ahead of where we wanted to be."

Now it's time to test the theory on the pitch. Drawn with Iran, India, Turkmenistan and Oman, the odds on Guam taking second place, with a chance of making the final stage of qualification, are slim but not absent.

"We want to be top of the group after the first two games and then we'll see what happens," claims White. A few years ago, all in Asia would have laughed, but not any more. WS

➤ expansion franchise set to join MLS in 2018, announces plans to build a 22,000-seat stadium on the site of the old Sports Arena, next to Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Tuesday *May 19*

BRAZIL: Former national boss Luiz Felipe Scolari steps down as coach of Gremio following the weekend's 2-0 loss at Coritiba.

FRANCE: Luca Zidane, the son of Zinedine, saves three penalties as France beat Belgium on spot-kicks following a 1-1 draw to reach the Final of the European Under-17 Championship in Bulgaria.

QATAR: Lekhwiya, who lost 2-0 to Al Sadd on Friday in the Emir Cup semi-finals, gain some revenge over their Qatari rivals with a 2-1 victory in the away leg of their AFC Champions League round-of-16 tie.

SCOTLAND: Josh Magennis is handed a two-match ban by the Scottish FA for head-butting his Kilmarnock team-mate Jamie Hamill during Saturday's 4-1 victory over Partick Thistle.

UGANDA: Vipers beat Bul 1-0 with a goal from Farouk Miya on the last day of the season to win the league title for a second time.

Wednesday *May 20*

AUSTRALIA: Newcastle Jets have their A-League licence terminated by Football Federation Australia after going into voluntary administration.

CROATIA: Dinamo Zagreb beat RNK Split on penalties to win the Croatian Cup and complete the double.

CYPRUS: APOEL win their 21st Cypriot Cup with a 4-2 victory over AEL in the Final.

FRANCE: Nimes successfully overturn their relegation for alleged match fixing on appeal and will remain in Ligue 2 next season, where they will start with an eight-point penalty.

Euro champ...hat-trick hero Edouard (centre)

HUNGARY: Ferencvaros end an 11-year wait for silverware and set a new record of 21 wins as they beat newly crowned league champions Videoton 4-0 in the Hungarian Cup Final.

ISRAEL: Maccabi Tel Aviv win the Israeli Cup, beating Hapoel Beer Sheva 6-2 to complete their first double since 1996.

ITALY: Alessandro Matri scores in extra-time to give Juventus a 2-1 victory over Lazio in the Italian Cup Final and secure a domestic double.

LATVIA: Despite having defender Abdoulaye Diallo sent off after just three minutes, 10-man Jelgava win the Latvian Cup for a third time in five years with a 2-0 victory over Ventspils in the Final.

MOLDOVA: Milsami jump from third to first on the last day of the season to win the league for the first time. They win 2-1 at Dacia, who led the table at the start of play, while second-place Sheriff beat Dinamo-Auto 1-0. All three sides finish on 55 points, but Milsami have a better head-to-head record against their two rivals.

MONTENEGRO: An extra-time own goal by Marko Markovic hands Mladost Podgorica their first major trophy as they beat Petrovac 2-1 in the Montenegrin Cup Final.

SERBIA: Cukaricki claim the first trophy in their 89-year history with a 1-0 win against Partizan Belgrade in the Serbian Cup Final.

SLOVAKIA: A 2-1 defeat for Zilina at home to Slovan Bratislava hands the league title to Trencin for a first-ever domestic double.

SLOVENIA: Despite having Matej Palcic sent off in the closing stages, Koper beat Celje 2-0 – with goals from Denis Halilovic and sub Jaka Stromajer – to win the Slovenian Cup for a third time.

Thursday *May 21*

ARGENTINA: River Plate and Racing both lose 1-0 in the opening games of the Libertadores Cup round-of-16 ties, at home to Brazil's Cruzeiro and away to Guarani in Paraguay respectively.

BELGIUM: A 2-0 victory over Standard Liege gives Gent the first league title in their 115-year history.

DENMARK: A goalless draw with Vestsjaelland seals a first league title for Midtjylland.

FIFA: Ex-Portugal international Luis Figo and Dutch FA president Michael Van Praag withdraw from the FIFA presidential election.

RUSSIA: Lokomotiv Moscow come from behind to beat Kuban Krasnodar 3-1 after extra time and win the Russian Cup.

Friday *May 22*

FRANCE: Odsonne Edouard scores a hat-trick as France beat Germany 4-1 in the Final of the Euro Under-17 Championship. The Paris Saint-Germain striker is the tournament's top scorer with eight goals.

ROMANIA: Cluj jump from 16th ➤

➤ to third in the league after winning a successful appeal against a 24-point deduction.

Saturday *May 23*

ALGERIA: ES Setif win the league title for a seventh time in their history, with a game to spare, beating CS Constantine 2-0 at home.
FRANCE: Monaco book their place in next term's Champions League with a 1-0 win over Lorient.
GERMANY: Freiburg and Paderborn are relegated as they lose 2-1 at Hanover and 2-1 at home to Stuttgart. Hamburg beat Schalke 2-0 to avoid the drop but now face a two-leg relegation play-off.
LITHUAHIA: Zalgiris win a fourth consecutive Lithuanian Cup, beating Atlantas Klaipeda 2-0 in the Final.
MALAYSIA: Sahil Suhaimi scores twice as Singapore's Lions XII win the Malaysia FA Cup for the first time, beating Kelantan 3-1 in the Final.
MALTA: Birkirkara deny Hibernians a domestic double by beating their arch-rivals 2-0 in the Maltese FA Trophy Final.
SPAIN: Valencia twice come from behind to seal a place in next season's Champions League with a 3-2 win at Almeria, who are relegated. Eibar also go down after losing 3-0 at home to already demoted Cordoba. Cristiano Ronaldo scores his eighth hat-trick of the season to claim the golden boot with 48 league goals as Real Madrid thrash Getafe 7-3. At 16 years, five months and six days, Martin Odegaard becomes Real's youngest league debutant.

Sunday *May 24*

ARGENTINA: Atletico Parana's 27-year-old defender Cristian Gomez collapses and dies of a suspected heart attack during a second-tier game against Boca Unidos.
AUSTRIA: Red Bull Salzburg retain their league title with a 3-0 victory over Wolfsberger.
BELARUS: BATE win the Belarusian Cup for the first time since 2010, beating Shaktyor Soligorsk 4-1 in the Final.
CYPRUS: APOEL complete a second successive double, sealing the championship with a 4-2 victory at Ermis Aradippou on the final day of the season.
ENGLAND: A goalless draw at home to Manchester United sees Hull City relegated, while Steven Gerrard's last game for Liverpool ends with a 6-1 defeat at Stoke City – their heaviest league loss for 52 years.
GERMANY: Darmstadt make it two promotions in two years and ➤

CONCACAF

MARTIN DEL PALACIO LANGER

It's time for some good news

The build-up to this year's Gold Cup has seen CONCACAF the subject of headlines in the world's media for all the worst possible reasons. Its president, Jeff Webb, was arrested by the Swiss police as a suspect of money laundering, its secretary general, Enrique Saenz, was barred from office for his relationship with Traffic, a company whose president was also arrested, and former president, Jack Warner, who was fired from his post in 2011, has a pending extradition order to the United States for various crimes.

And they were all indicted from records compiled by former confederation secretary general, Chuck Blazer, who, after pleading guilty, became an FBI informant.

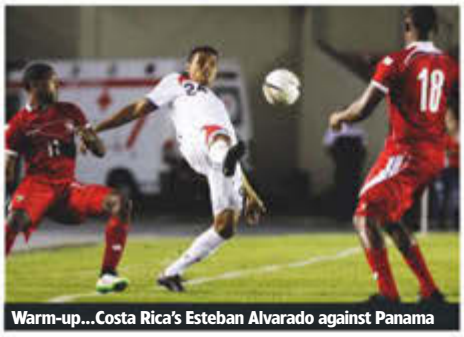
Among this whole mess, what could perhaps be the best Gold Cup in history kicks off on July 7.

A year after their good performances in Brazil 2014, Mexico, United States and Costa Rica can be legitimately seen as favourites to win the tournament.

Player for player, there seems little doubt Mexico have more quality than anyone else in the competition. Spearheaded by Carlos Vela, Hector Moreno and Javier Hernandez, "*El Tri*" have 11 players at good European clubs, reinforced by the cream of the crop of the Liga MX, the most dominant league in the region.

But Mexico have struggled at regional level in recent years. Two years ago they didn't even make the Final of the Gold Cup, losing in the semi-finals against Panama. Then they suffered the unspeakable in the qualifiers for Brazil 2014, finishing fourth of six in the last round.

Meanwhile, the US, under Jurgen Klinsmann's patient guidance, have relied more on collective strength than individual talent. With the golden generation of Landon Donovan, Tim Howard and Clint Dempsey on the way out, the German coach has had to seek perhaps less talented players who are more solid and disciplined. The result is a young team that seems to be on the rise, as revealed with their impressive victories in recent friendly victories in Holland (4-3) and Germany (2-1).



Warm-up...Costa Rica's Esteban Alvarado against Panama

After an exciting World Cup, where they beat Italy and Uruguay, Costa Rica have been in the news more for their internal problems than their results. The coach who led them to their historic successes in Brazil, Jorge Luis Pinto, left following a confrontation with his assistant, the legendary player Hernan Medford, who was later named his successor in a move that was very unpopular with the fans.

On the pitch, the team has struggled to find last summer's form. While they did win the Centroamericana Cup, failure to do so would have been a huge failure. In friendlies, the results have been mixed, with wins over South Korea and Oman in late 2014 followed by defeats against Panama, Colombia and Spain this year.

After the "big three", the outlook is not encouraging. Honduras, the fourth CONCACAF team at the World Cup, are undergoing a process of renovation, with a new generation that seems far from the quality of the old guard. They just managed to qualify for the Gold Cup by narrowly beating French Guyana in a play-off after finishing fifth in the Centroamericana.

Panama have failed to make the leap of quality expected for some years now. They have a balanced team with some experienced players in Europe's lesser leagues, Colombia and the United States, but they hardly seem poised to repeat the second place they achieved in 2013.

As has happened to its FA leaders, Caribbean

Friendly upset... USA (in blue) beat Germany in Cologne

football's luck seem to be on a downward spiral. No team from the region qualified for Brazil and they don't seem set to play any part in this Gold Cup. Their best bet is Jamaica, a fast and strong team, but they are short on the technical side. They include several players born in England and will play in the Copa America before the Gold Cup, which will definitely help in their preparation. Trinidad & Tobago, Haiti, Cuba, Canada, El Salvador and Guatemala will try to spring a surprise but their chances of doing something significant look slim.

Off the pitch, the tournament has certain peculiarities that could only occur in the region. For starters, it will be played in 13 different cities, to take advantage of the large immigrant communities in the United States, but that will force the teams to travel from one side of the country to the other in between matches, to try to attract bigger crowds.

In addition, the 12 participants were divided into three groups, but, in true CONCACAF fashion, they were not actually drawn, but were arranged so that the Final would be played between Mexico and the United States, which guarantees a full house and a big profit to the organisation.

Thus, Mexico, whose fans outnumber anyone else in the US, including the hosts, were assigned to Group C and will have the most comfortable path to the Final, probably facing Honduras and Panama regardless of whether they finish first or second in their group, while the USA and Costa Rica will play, barring an unexpected turn of events, the other semi-final. **WS**

GOLD CUP THE TEAMS

USA: With less individual talent than in years past, but favourites because of their collective strength.
Key player: Michael Bradley.

MEXICO: The best squad, but prone to succumbing to pressure when facing their main regional rivals.
Key player: Carlos Vela.

COSTA RICA: They have lost steam since Brazil 2014, but still a strong team with experienced players.
Key player: Bryan Ruiz.

HONDURAS: Undergoing a full renovation, they seem to be a long way from the team that qualified for the last two World Cups.
Key player: Emilio Izaguirre.

PANAMA: An experienced team but one that lacks the talent to break into the top three.
Key player: Armando Cooper.

JAMAICA: A strong and powerful side, although not particularly technical. Their core is formed of English-born players.
Key player: Rudolph Austin.

CANADA: Surprise champions in 2000, they have failed to advance from the first round since 2013. They will host a game in Toronto.
Key player: David Edgar.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: The good times of Germany 2006 are long gone and they will just try to avoid an embarrassment.
Key player: Kenwyne Jones.

GUATEMALA: A young team, based on a Comunicaciones side that have won six consecutive domestic league championships.
Key player: Marco Pappa.

Quality...Mexico's Javier Hernandez

EL SALVADOR: Trying to resurface after many of their players were banned for match fixing.
Key player: Rafael Burgos.

HAITI: A team that surprisingly has several players with European experience in lower divisions.
Key player: Jeff Louis.

CUBA: Regular participants in the Gold Cup. Their last game was against New York Cosmos, which they lost 4-1, was the first between teams from Cuba and USA to be played on Cuban territory in 50 years.

return to the top flight with a 1-0 home win against St Pauli.
MOLDOVA: Zoran Zekic wins his first trophy as coach of Sheriff when they beat Dacia 3-2 after extra-time in the Moldovan Cup Final.
PARAGUAY: Cerro Porteno claim the apertura title, with a game to spare, beating San Lorenzo 3-0.
SPAIN: Real Betis return to La Liga after just one season in the second tier, clinching promotion with a 3-0 victory over Alcorcon.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Central win their first Caribbean Football Union Club Championship title, beating nine-man W Connection 2-1 in an all-Trinidadian Final.
USA: Chris Wondolowski becomes only the ninth player to score 100 goals in MLS with a second-half penalty in San Jose Earthquakes' 1-1 draw with Orlando City.

Monday *May 25*

ENGLAND: Norwich City are back in the Premier League with a 2-0 victory over Middlesbrough in the Championship play-off Final.
ITALY: Two Roma fans are stabbed before the derby game, in which the *Giallorossi* beat Lazio 2-1.
SPAIN: Real Madrid sack coach Carlo Ancelotti.
TURKEY: Fenerbahce's 2-2 draw at Istanbul BB hands the Super Lig title to Galatasaray, who won 2-0 against Besiktas a day earlier.

Tuesday *May 26*

ENGLAND: West Ham United will play in Europe for the first time since 2006, entering next season's Europa League by topping the Premier League's Fair Play table.
GEORGIA: Dinamo Tbilisi win a third successive Georgian Cup, beating Samtredia 5-0 in the Final.
MEXICO: Tigres overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit to reach the Libertadores Cup semi-finals for the first time with a 2-0 win at home to Emelec of Ecuador.
SAN MARINO: Folgore complete a first domestic double, coming from behind to beat Juvenes/Dogana 3-1 in the Championship play-off Final, having won the San Marinese Cup earlier in the month.

Wednesday *May 27*

ARGENTINA: River Plate overcame a 1-0 first-leg loss to beat Cruzeiro 3-0 in Brazil and reach the semi-finals of the Libertadores Cup.
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Despite going a goal behind and being down to 10-men, Olimpic win the Bosnian Cup for the first time, beating Siroki Brijeg on penalties after a 2-2 ➤

➤ draw on aggregate.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Third bottom in the league, Slovan Liberec beat Jablonec on penalties after a 1-1 draw to win the Czech Cup for a second time.
FRANCE: The Toulon tournament kicks off, with the hosts beating the USA 3-1 and Holland winning 3-2 against Costa Rica.
SPAIN: Colombian striker Carlos Bacca scores twice as Sevilla come from behind to beat Dnipro 3-2 and retain the Europa League.
SWITZERLAND: Police arrest seven FIFA officials in connection with corruption charges and the Swiss attorney general opens criminal proceedings over the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Thursday *May 28*

GERMANY: Ex-Hamburg striker Rouwen Hennings gives second-tier Karlsruher the lead in the away leg of their relegation/promotion play-off against his former team, who come back to draw 1-1.
MEXICO: Javier Orozco scores four goals as Santos Laguna virtually seal the clausura title with a 5-0 victory over Queretaro in their first home leg of the Liguilla Final.
PARAGUAY: Guarani draw 0-0 with Racing in Argentina to progress to the Libertadores Cup semi-finals with a 1-0 aggregate victory.
ROMANIA: Steaua Bucharest made it three titles in a row with a goalless draw against CSMS Iasi.

Friday *May 29*

ALBANIA: Laci are victorious in the Albanian Cup for the second time in three years, beating Kukesi 2-1 in the Final.
PORTUGAL: Benfica win the League Cup for a sixth time overall, beating Maritimo 2-1 in the Final.
SWITZERLAND: Sepp Blatter is re-elected as FIFA president.

Saturday *May 30*

BOSNIA: Sarajevo win the league title for the first time since 2007 with a 3-1 victory over Sloboda Tuzla on the last day of the season.
BULGARIA: Despite playing with 10 men for 80 minutes and being a goal down, Cherno More Varna win their first silverware with a 2-1 extra-time triumph against Levski Sofia in the Bulgarian Cup Final.
ESTONIA: Nomme Kalju FC beat Paide Linnameeskond 2-0 in the Estonian Cup Final.
ENGLAND: Arsenal win the FA Cup for a record 12th time, beating Aston Villa 4-0 – the biggest Final-winning margin for more than 20 years.
FRANCE: A header from Edinson Cavani gives Paris Saint-Germain a 1-0 victory over Ligue 2 side Auxerre in the French Cup Final.
GERMANY: Jurgen Klopp's last game as Borussia Dortmund coach ends in defeat as Wolfsburg win the German Cup Final 3-1.
GIBRALTAR: Lincoln complete a second successive double with

Four...Orozco

ESM XI

EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

SEASON RANKINGS

Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Gianluigi BUFFON (Juventus)	24 votes
David DE GEA (Manchester United)	19
Manuel NEUER (Bayern Munich)	19
Thibaut COURTOIS (Chelsea)	11
Jan OBLAK (Atletico Madrid)	8
Claudio BRAVO (Barcelona)	4
Bernd LENO (Bayer Leverkusen)	4
Danijel SUBASIC (Monaco)	4
David OSPINA (Arsenal)	3
Iker CASILLAS (Real Madrid)	2
Joe HART (Manchester City)	2
Simon MIGNOLET (Liverpool)	2
ROBERTO (Olympiakos)	2
Igor AKINFEEV (CSKA Moscow)	1
Sergio ALVAREZ (Celta Vigo)	1
Diego ALVES (Valencia)	1
Fraser FORSTER (Southampton)	1
Jasmin HANDANOVIC (Maribor)	1
Orestis KARNEZIS (Udinese)	1
Hugo LLORIS (Tottenham Hotspur)	1
Anthony LOPES (Lyon)	1
Diego LOPEZ (Milan)	1
Steve MANDANDA (Marseille)	1
Stephane RUFFIER (Saint-Etienne)	1
Mat RYAN (Club Brugge)	1
Yann SOMMER (Borussia Monchengladbach)	1
Marc-Andre TER STEGEN (Barcelona)	1

DEFENDERS

Branislav IVANOVIC (Chelsea)	34
Sergio RAMOS (Real Madrid)	29
Gerard PIQUE (Barcelona)	28
Giorgio CHIELLINI (Juventus)	23
David ALABA (Bayern Munich)	20
John TERRY (Chelsea)	18
Juan BERNAT (Bayern Munich)	15
Leonardo BONUCCI (Juventus)	13
PEPE (Real Madrid)	13
Jerome BOATENG (Bayern Munich)	12
Diego GODIN (Atletico Madrid)	12
MARCELO (Real Madrid)	12
Dani ALVES (Barcelona)	11
David LUIZ (Paris Saint-Germain)	9
MIRANDA (Atletico Madrid)	9
NALDO (Wolfsburg)	9
Nicolas OTAMENDI (Valencia)	9
Jordi ALBA (Barcelona)	8
JUANFRAN (Atletico Madrid)	8
Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Juventus)	8
Jeremy MATHIEU (Barcelona)	8
Javier MASCHERANO (Barcelona)	7
DANILO (Porto)	6
MAXWELL (Paris Saint-Germain)	6
Ricardo RODRIGUEZ (Wolfsburg)	6
Pablo ZABALETA (Manchester City)	6
Nathaniel CLYNE (Southampton)	5
Patrice EVRA (Juventus)	5
Cesar AZPILICUETA (Chelsea)	4
Nicolas N'KOULOU (Marseille)	4
Gary CAHILL (Chelsea)	3
Jose Luis GAYA (Valencia)	3
Aleksandar KOLAROV (Manchester City)	3
Laurent KOSCIELNY (Arsenal)	3
Kostas MANOLAS (Roma)	3
Per MERTESACKER (Arsenal)	3
Nacho MONREAL (Arsenal)	3
Maxi PEREIRA (Benfica)	3
Thiago SILVA (Paris Saint-Germain)	3
Martin SKRTEL (Liverpool)	3
Martin STRANZL (Borussia Monchengladbach)	3
Raphael VARANE (Real Madrid)	3
Aleix VIDAL (Sevilla)	3
Aymen ABDENNOUR (Monaco)	2
Leighton BAINES (Everton)	2
Hector BELLERIN (Arsenal)	2
Mehdi BENATIA (Bayern Munich)	2
Dani CARVAJAL (Real Madrid)	2
Ashley COLE (Roma)	2
FABINHO (Monaco)	2
Jose FONTE (Southampton)	2
Jose GIMENEZ (Atletico Madrid)	2
Christophe JALLET (Lyon)	2
Layvin KURZAWA (Monaco)	2
RAFINHA (Bayern Munich)	2
Danny ROSE (Tottenham Hotspur)	2
Paul VERHAEGH (Augsburg)	2
Toby ALDERWEIRELD (Southampton)	1
Jordan AMAVI (Nice)	1
Davide ASTORI (Roma)	1
Dusan BASTA (Lazio)	1
Andrea BARZAGLI (Juventus)	1
Ryan BERTRAND (Southampton)	1
Milan BISEVAC (Lyon)	1
Daley BLIND (Manchester United)	1
BRITOS (Napoli)	1
Alex BRUCE (Hull City)	1
Martin CACERES (Juventus)	1
CAICARA (Ludogorets)	1
Zoumana CAMARA (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
CARLAO (APOEL)	1
Daniel CARRICO (Sevilla)	1
Gael CLICHY (Manchester City)	1
Damien DA SILVA (Caen)	1
Scott DANN (Crystal Palace)	1
Rod FANNI (Marseille)	1
Santiago GENTILETTI (Lazio)	1
Faouzi GHOULAM (Napoli)	1
Kieran GIBBS (Arsenal)	1
Camil GLICK (Torino)	1
Raphael GUERREIRO (Lorient)	1
Benedikt HOWEDES (Schalke)	1
Mats HUMMELS (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Daryl JANMAAT (Newcastle United)	1
Tin JEDVAJ (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
JEFFERSON (Sporting Lisbon)	1
Filipe LUIS (Chelsea)	1
MAICON (Roma)	1
Eliaquim MANGALA (Manchester City)	1
MARQUINHOS (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Carl MEDJANI (Trabzonspor)	1
Philippe MEXES (Milan)	1
Alberto MORENO (Liverpool)	1
Shkodran MUSTAFI (Valencia)	1
Fernando NAVARRO (Sevilla)	1
Paulo OLIVEIRA (Sporting Lisbon)	1
Manuel PASQUAL (Fiorentina)	1
Karium REFIK (PSV)	1
Winston REID (West Ham United)	1
Gonzalo RODRIGUEZ (Fiorentina)	1
Walter SAMUEL (Basle)	1
Alex SANDRO (Porto)	1
Emir SPAHIC (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Gregory VAN DER WIEL (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
VIEIRINHA (Wolfsburg)	1
WALLACE (Monaco)	1
WENDELL (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Jetro WILLEMS (PSV)	1
Kurt ZOUMA (Chelsea)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Arjen ROBBEN (Bayern Munich)	39
Cesc FABREGAS (Chelsea)	24
Eden HAZARD (Chelsea)	24
Kevin DE BRUYNE (Wolfsburg)	23
Paul POGBA (Juventus)	23
Xabi ALONSO (Bayern Munich)	14
Antoine GRIEZMANN (Atletico Madrid)	13
Toni KROOS (Real Madrid)	13
Ivan RAKITIC (Barcelona)	12
ISCO (Real Madrid)	10
Mario GOTZE (Bayern Munich)	9
Yaya TOURE (Manchester City)	9
Philipp LAHM (Bayern Munich)	8
Nemanja MATIC (Chelsea)	8
Andres INIESTA (Barcelona)	7
Marco REUS (Borussia Dortmund)	7
Marco VERRATTI (Paris Saint-Germain)	7
Arturo VIDAL (Juventus)	7
Felipe ANDERSON (Lazio)	6
Claudio MARCHISIO (Juventus)	6
James RODRIGUEZ (Real Madrid)	6
THIAGO ALCANTARA (Bayern Munich)	6
Santi CAZORLA (Arsenal)	5
Philippe COUTINHO (Liverpool)	5
Thomas MULLER (Bayern Munich)	4
Radja NAINGGOLAN (Roma)	4
Dani PAREJO (Valencia)	4
Andrea PIRLO (Juventus)	4
David SILVA (Manchester City)	4
Jose Maria CALLEJON (Napoli)	3
Angel DI MARIA (Manchester United)	3
Christian ERIKSEN (Tottenham Hotspur)	3
Marouane FELLAINI (Manchester United)	3
Grzegorz KRYCHOWIAK (Sevilla)	3
NANI (Sporting Lisbon)	3
Javier PASTORE (Paris Saint-Germain)	3
Miralem PJANIC (Roma)	3
Mohamed SALAH (Fiorentina)	3
Wesley SNEIJDER (Galatasaray)	3
ARDA Turan (Atletico Madrid)	2
Gareth BALE (Real Madrid)	2
Yacine BRAHIMI (Porto)	2
Giannelli IMBULA (Marseille)	2
KOKE (Atletico Madrid)	2
Geoffrey KONDOGBIA (Monaco)	2
Frank LAMPARD (Manchester City)	2
Juan MATA (Manchester United)	2
RAFFAEL (Borussia Monchengladbach)	2
Jeremy TOULALAN (Monaco)	2
Granit XHAKA (Borussia Monchengladbach)	2
Karim BELLARABI (Bayer Leverkusen)	1
Sergio BUSQUETS (Barcelona)	1
Michael CARRICK (Manchester United)	1
Denis CHERYSHEV (Villarreal)	1
Francis COQUELIN (Arsenal)	1
Alessandro FLORENZI (Roma)	1
GABI (Atletico Madrid)	1
Steven GERRARD (Liverpool)	1

a 4-1 victory over Lynx in the Rock Cup Final.
NAMIBIA: Deon Hotto scores both goals as Namibia beat Mozambique 2-0 in the COSAFA Cup Final at the Moruleng Stadium in South Africa.
NEW ZEALAND: The hosts kick off the Under-20 World Cup with a 0-0 draw against Ukraine.
SCOTLAND: An 86th-minute goal from James Vincent gives Inverness Caledonian Thistle their first major silverware as they beat Falkirk 2-1 in the Scottish Cup Final.
SPAIN: Barcelona complete the domestic double, beating Athletic Bilbao 3-1 in the Spanish Cup Final at their own Camp Nou stadium in what is midfielder Xavi's last game there for the club.

Sunday *May 31*

GAMBIA: A second-half penalty from Yaya Ndong gives Gamtel a 1-0 win against Armed Forces and secures the club a first league title.
INDIA: A draw with defending champions Bengaluru sees Mohun Bagan pick up the point that they needed to win the I-League title for the first time.
LUXEMBOURG: Differdange retain the Luxembourger Cup, beating Dudelange on penalties after a 1-1 draw in the Final.
MEXICO: Santos Laguna are crowned clausura champions despite losing 3-0 to Queretaro, having won the first leg of the Final 5-0.
PORTUGAL: Sporting Lisbon win their first silverware since 2008 as they beat Braga on penalties in the Portuguese Cup Final. Braga had led 2-0 until Sporting drew level to force extra time.
ROMANIA: Steaua complete an unprecedented domestic treble, beating Universitatea Cluj 3-0 to add the Romanian Cup to their league and League Cup successes.

Friendly...Cuba (left) and Cosmos

Monday *June 1*

GERMANY: Hamburg retain their place in the Bundesliga with a 2-1 victory over Karlsruher in extra-time to win their promotion/relegation play-off 3-2 on aggregate.
IRAN: Zob Ahan beat Naft Tehran 3-1 in the Final of the Hazfi Cup to secure an automatic place in the group stage of next year's AFC Champions League.

Tuesday *June 2*

CUBA: The first visiting side from the USA since the now-defunct Chicago Sting in 1978, New York Cosmos beat Cuba 4-1 in a friendly at the Estadio Pedro Marrero in Havana.
SWITZERLAND: Sepp Blatter announces he will resign as FIFA president, four days after being re-elected for a fifth term.

Wednesday *June 3*

AZERBAIJAN: Qarabag seal the double by beating holders Neftci 3-1 in the Azerbaijani Cup Final
SPAIN: Rafael Benitez signs a three-year deal to take charge of Real Madrid.
TURKEY: Burak Yilmaz scores a ➤

MAY 2015

ESM – EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA
The members of ESM are: *A Bola* (Portugal), *Elf* (Holland), *Fanatik* (Turkey), *Frankfurter Allegmeine Zeitung* (Germany), *Goal News* (Greece), *Kicker* (Germany), *Marca* (Spain), *Nemzeti Sport* (Hungary), *So Foot* (France), *Sport* (Belgium), *Sport Express* (Russia), *De Telegraaf* (Holland), *TIPSbladet* (Denmark), *World Soccer* (England). More details of votes at **worldsoccer.com/votes**

Maxime GONALONS (Lyon)	1
Yoann GOURCUFF (Lyon)	1
Luiz GUSTAVO (Wolfsburg)	1
Hector HERRERA (Porto)	1
Luka MODRIC (Real Madrid)	1
Saul NIGUEZ (Atletico Madrid)	1
Steven N'ZONZI (Stoke City)	1
Dimitry PAYET (Marseille)	1
Pablo PIATTI (Valencia)	1
Franck RIBERY (Bayern Munich)	1
Bernardo SILVA (Monaco)	1
TALISCA (Benfica)	1
Jack WILSHERE (Arsenal)	1

FORWARDS

Lionel MESSI (Barcelona)	73
Cristiano RONALDO (Real Madrid)	60
Luis SUAREZ (Barcelona)	39
NEYMAR (Barcelona)	30
Sergio AGUERO (Manchester City)	20
Harry KANE (Tottenham Hotspur)	18
Diego COSTA (Chelsea)	17
Bas DOST (Wolfsburg)	13
Carlos TEVEZ (Juventus)	13
Karim BENZEMA (Real Madrid)	8
Alexandre LACAZETTE (Lyon)	8
Alvaro MORATA (Juventus)	6
Alexis SANCHEZ (Arsenal)	6
Carlos BACCA (Sevilla)	5
Graziano PELLE (Southampton)	5
Francesco TOTTI (Roma)	5
Wayne ROONEY (Manchester United)	4
Luiz ADRIANO (Shakhtar Donetsk)	2
Paulo DYBALA (Palermo)	2
Andre-Pierre GIGNAC (Marseille)	2
Javier HERNANDEZ (Real Madrid)	2
Alexander MEIER (Eintracht Frankfurt)	2
Diafra SAKHO (West Ham United)	2
Paco ALCACER (Valencia)	1
Tom DE SUTTER (Club Brugge)	1
Eljero ELIA (Southampton)	1
Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Mauro ICARDI (Internazionale)	1
Robert LEWANDOWSKI (Bayern Munich)	1
Sadio MANE (Southampton)	1
Jackson MARTINEZ (Porto)	1
Cristian TELLO (Porto)	1
Luca TONI (Verona)	1
Fernando TORRES (Atletico Madrid)	1
Jamie VARDY (Leicester City)	1
Danny WELBECK (Arsenal)	1
Simone ZAZA (Sassuolo)	1

➤ hat-trick as Galatasaray beat Bursaspor 3-2 in the Turkish Cup Final to complete their first domestic double since 2000.
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Al Nasr win the UAE President's Cup on penalties after drawing 1-1 in extra-time with Al Ahli.

Thursday *June 4*

FIJI: A 3-0 victory over Honduras at the Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand is Fiji's first-ever win at a FIFA tournament.
ITALY: Juventus sign Palermo striker Paulo Dybala for €32m, with a potential extra €8m depending on "certain conditions".
UKRAINE: Dynamo Kiev complete the domestic double, beating Shakhtar Donetsk on penalties in the Ukrainian Cup Final.

Friday *June 5*

CURACAO: Patrick Kluivert remains unbeaten in three games as national coach with a 1-0 win against Trinidad & Tobago.
SAUDI ARABIA: Al Hilal beat Al Nassr on penalties at the end of extra-time after a 1-1 draw to win the King's Cup and deny their rivals a Saudi league and cup double.
SPAIN: Eibar, who finished third from bottom in La Liga, are saved from relegation after the Spanish Football League demote 13th-place Elche for unpaid debts.
USA: Two goals in the last two minutes see the US come from 3-1 down to beat Holland 4-3 in a friendly in Amsterdam.

Saturday *June 6*

ARGENTINA: Sergio Aguero scores his first international hat-trick in a 5-0 friendly victory against Bolivia. Angel Di Maria, who was captain in Lionel Messi's absence, gets the other two goals.
ECUADOR: Walter Ayovi wins his 100th cap and Fidel Martinez scores twice as Ecuador beat Panama 4-0.
SPAIN: Barcelona beat Juventus 3-1 in the Champions League Final to become the first team to twice win the treble of major continental cup and domestic double.

Sunday *June 7*

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors beat Newell's Old Boys 4-0 in a game played behind closed doors at La Bombonera and move a point behind leaders San Lorenzo, who drew 0-0 on Saturday with Belgrano.
BELGIUM: Marouane Fellaini is on target twice as Belgium win 4-3 in a friendly against France in Paris.
BRAZIL: Philippe Coutinho and Diego Tardelli score first-half goals in a 2-0 win over Mexico as Brazil play their first home game since last year's World Cup.
FRANCE: The host nation beat Morocco 3-1 in the Final of the Toulon Tournament. The USA won the third-place play-off, beating England 2-1.
PARAGUAY: Roque Santa Cruz scores an own goal and then equalises twice as Paraguay draw 2-2 at home to Honduras in a Copa America warm-up game.
POLAND: Lech Poznan draw 0-0 with Wisla Krakow to claim their seventh league title.
SWITZERLAND: Sion beat league champions Basle 3-0 to win the Swiss Cup for a 13th time.

On target...Brazil scorer Coutinho

Monday *June 8*

GHANA: Vitoria Guimaraes midfielder Bernard Mensah scores on his international debut as Ghana beat Togo 1-0 in a friendly.
ITALY: Fiorentina sack coach Vincenzo Montella and accuse him of a "lack of respect", despite the 40-year-old leading the side to fourth place in Serie A and the semi-finals of the Europa League and the Italian Cup.
SPAIN: Barcelona sign Sevilla's Aleix Vidal for an initial fee of €18m, although the right-back won't be able to play for Barca until January 2016 due to their transfer ban. WS

Top...Ronaldo

FINAL STANDINGS

ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

Finisher...Toni

Pos	Name		Goals	Factor	Points
1	Cristiano Ronaldo	Real Madrid	48	2	96
2	Lionel Messi	Barcelona	43	2	86
3	Sergio Aguero	Manchester City	26	2	52
4	Jonatan Soriano	Red Bull Salzburg	31	1.5	46.5
5	Antoine Griezmann	Atletico Madrid	22	2	44
	Mauro Icardi	Internazionale	22	2	44
	Neymar	Barcelona	22	2	44
	Luca Toni	Verona	22	2	44
9	Harry Kane	Tottenham Hotspur	21	2	42
	Jackson Martinez	Porto	21	2	42
11	Robert Beric	Rapid Vienna	27	1.5	40.5
	Alexandre Lacazette	Lyon	27	1.5	40.5
	Eran Zahavi	Maccabi Tel Aviv	27	1.5	40.5
14	Carlos Bacca	Sevilla	20	2	40
	Diego Costa	Chelsea	20	2	40
	Jonas	Benfica	20	2	40
	Carlos Tevez	Juventus	20	2	40
18	Lima	Benfica	19	2	38
	Alexander Meier	Eintracht Frankfurt	19	2	38
20	Aritz Aduriz	Athletic Bilbao	18	2	36
	Charlie Austin	Queens Park Rangers	18	2	36
	Gonzalo Higuain	Napoli	18	2	36
	Evgeni Kabaev	Sillamae Kalev	36	1	36
24	Andrej Kramaric	HNK Rijeka/Leicester City	21	1.5 + 2	35.5
25	Alberto Bueno	Rayo Vallecano	17	2	34
	Robert Lewandowski	Bayern Munich	17	2	34
	Marco Matias	Nacional	17	2	34
	Arjen Robben	Bayern Munich	17	2	34
29	Memphis Depay	PSV	22	1.5	33
	Fernandao	Bursaspor	22	1.5	33
	Shkelzen Gashi	Basle	22	1.5	33

Pos	Name		Goals	Factor	Points
32	Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang	Borussia Dortmund	16	2	32
	Bas Dost	Wolfsburg	16	2	32
	Jeremy Menez	Milan	16	2	32
	Alexis Sanchez	Arsenal	16	2	32
	Luis Suarez	Barcelona	16	2	32
	Igor Subbotin	Levadia Tallinn	32	1	32
38	Andre-Pierre Gignac	Marseille	21	1.5	31.5
	Angelo Henriquez	Dinamo Zagreb	21	1.5	31.5
40	Joe Gormley	Cliftonville	31	1	31
	Pero Pejic	Kukesi	31	1	31
42	Karim Benzema	Real Madrid	15	2	30
	Domenico Berardi	Sassuolo	15	2	30
	Manolo Gabbiadini	Sampdoria/Napoli	15	2	30
	Luuk De Jong	PSV	20	1.5	30
	David Lafata	Sparta Prague	20	1.5	30
	Manucho	Infonet	30	1	30
48	Zlatan Ibrahimovic	Paris Saint-Germain	19	1.5	28.5
	Marcel Sabitzer	Red Bull Salzburg	19	1.5	28.5
	Milan Skoda	Slavia Prague	19	1.5	28.5
51	Saido Berahino	West Bromwich Albion	14	2	28
	Sergio Garcia	Espanyol	14	2	28
	Olivier Giroud	Arsenal	14	2	28
	Vladislavs Gutkovskis	Skonto Riga	28	1	28
	Eden Hazard	Chelsea	14	2	28
	Jonathas	Elche	14	2	28
	Antonio Di Natale	Udinese	14	2	28
	Chris Venables	Aberystwyth Town	28	1	28
59	Demba Ba	Besiktas	18	1.5	27
	Edinson Cavani	Paris Saint-Germain	18	1.5	27
	Paul Heatley	Crusaders	27	1	27
	Gregory Tade	CFR Cluj	18	1.5	27

Club football

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs

May 5
Juventus (Ita) 2 (Morata 8, Tevez pen 58)
Real Madrid (Spa) 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 41,011. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)

May 6
Barcelona (Spa) 3 (Messi 77, 80, Neymar 90+4)
Bayern Munich (Ger) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 95,639. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)

2nd legs

May 12
Bayern Munich 3 (Benatia 7, Lewandowski 59, Muller 74)
Barcelona 2 (Neymar 15, 29)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Clattenburg (Eng)
Barcelona 5-3 on agg

May 13
Real Madrid 1 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 23)
Juventus 1 (Morata 57)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 78,153. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Juventus 3-2 on agg

● *For Final, see page 36*

EUROPA LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs - May 7; 2nd legs - May 14
Napoli (Ita) v Dnipro (Ukr) 1-1, 0-1 (agg 1-2)
Sevilla (Spa) v Fiorentina (Ita) 3-0, 2-0 (agg 5-0)

● *For Final, see page 40*

ALBANIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skenderbeu (C)	36	24	7	5	58	18	79
Kukesi	36	23	6	7	59	27	75
Partizani	36	22	7	7	42	24	73
Tirana	36	21	8	7	47	27	71
Laci	36	20	9	7	46	19	69
Flamurtari	36	10	8	18	29	37	38
Vllaznia[1]	36	11	5	20	27	41	35
Teuta	36	9	2	25	31	54	29
Apolonia (R)	36	7	4	25	19	56	25
Elbasani (R)	36	4	2	30	19	74	14

[1]3pts deducted

ARMENIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pyunik (C)	28	19	4	5	58	26	61
Ulisses	28	15	5	8	43	32	50
Shirak	28	14	7	7	51	32	49
Alashkert	28	10	8	10	32	35	38
Mika	28	9	10	9	33	34	37
Banants	28	8	8	12	42	46	32
Gandzasar	28	7	8	13	31	44	29
Ararat	28	3	4	21	28	69	13

No relegation this season

AUSTRIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salzburg (C)	36	22	7	7	99	42	73
Rapid	36	19	10	7	68	38	67
Altach	36	17	8	11	50	49	59
Sturm	36	16	10	10	57	41	58
Wolfsberger	36	16	4	16	44	50	52
Ried	36	12	8	16	49	51	44
Austria	36	10	13	13	45	51	43
Grodig	36	10	7	19	46	65	37
Admira	36	7	13	16	32	61	34
W Neustadt (R)	36	7	8	21	37	79	29

AZERBAIJAN

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qarabag (C)	32	20	8	4	51	28	68
Inter	32	17	12	3	55	20	63
Qabala	32	15	9	8	46	35	54
Neftchi	32	13	10	9	38	33	49
Simurq	32	11	6	15	41	39	39
AZAL	32	10	9	13	37	42	39
Khazar	32	8	8	16	35	46	32
Sumqayit	32	7	10	15	32	43	31
Baku	32	3	8	21	19	68	17
Araz[1] (R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1]Withdrawn from league mid-season; all results expunged

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sarajevo (C)	30	19	9	2	55	17	66
Zeljeznicar	30	18	9	3	52	22	63
Zrinjski	30	16	11	3	41	13	59
Siroki Brijeg	30	15	11	4	46	23	56
Borac	30	14	7	9	26	26	49
Olimpic	30	13	7	10	41	34	46
Celik	30	10	11	9	34	35	41
Sloboda Tuzla	30	11	7	12	33	28	40
Velez	30	10	8	12	32	33	38
Radnik	30	7	10	13	29	39	31
Travnik	30	8	7	15	22	42	31
Slavija	30	7	7	16	30	44	28
Drina	30	6	9	15	26	40	27
Vitez	30	7	5	18	21	43	26
Mladost VO (R)	30	6	8	16	18	44	26
Zvijezda (R)	30	5	10	15	30	53	25

BULGARIA

Division split after 22-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2014-15 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ludogorets (C)	32	18	9	5	63	24	63
Beroe	32	15	10	7	46	30	55
Lok Sofia	32	16	7	9	39	31	55
Lovech	32	16	6	10	49	36	54
CSKA	32	14	10	8	45	27	52
Botev	32	12	6	14	38	39	42

2014-15 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	32	17	5	10	66	33	56
Cherno More	32	15	5	12	42	36	50
Slavia	32	12	7	13	40	38	43
Lok Plovdiv	32	9	5	18	28	52	32
Marek (R)	32	5	5	22	14	71	20
Haskovo (R)	32	4	3	25	18	71	15

CROATIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo (C)	36	26	10	0	85	21	88
Rijeka	36	22	9	5	76	29	75
Hajduk[1]	36	15	8	13	59	56	50
Lokomotiva	36	13	7	16	59	68	46
Zagreb	36	13	7	16	45	54	46
Slaven	36	11	9	16	38	49	42
Split	36	9	14	13	42	49	41
Osijek	36	10	6	20	42	59	36
Istra 1961	36	7	14	15	36	59	35
Zadar (R)	36	8	8	20	37	75	32

[1]3pts deducted for refusing to play away to Dinamo because a number of Hajduk fans were denied entry to the game

CYPRUS

Division split after 22-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2014-15 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APOEL (C)	32	17	11	4	52	26	62
AEK	32	17	8	7	56	31	59
Apollon	32	18	5	9	59	41	59
Omonia	32	17	5	10	52	34	56
Anorthosis	32	16	4	12	50	37	52
Ermis	32	11	7	14	38	55	40

2014-15 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ethnikos	32	11	8	13	36	49	41
AEL	32	9	12	11	42	42	39
Nea Salamina	32	9	9	14	31	37	36
Ayia Napa	32	6	12	14	32	54	30
Doxa	32	7	7	18	29	55	28
Othellos (R)	32	5	10	17	26	42	25

GEORGIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dila (C)	30	19	7	4	50	21	64
Dinamo Bat'mi	30	18	4	8	40	24	58
Dinamo Tbilisi	30	17	7	6	56	28	58
Tskhinvali	30	16	5	9	47	37	53
Chikhura	30	13	7	10	39	36	46
Samtredia	30	13	6	11	40	31	45
Shukura	30	11	8	11	36	38	41
Torpedo	30	10	11	9	39	33	41
Guria	30	10	9	11	38	43	39
Kolkheti Poti	30	9	10	11	31	31	37
Merani	30	9	9	12	29	33	36
Zugdidi	30	8	9	13	24	45	33
Sioni	30	9	5	16	32	46	32
Metalurgi (R)[1]	30	6	8	16	25	46	26
WIT Georgia (R)	30	7	5	18	27	40	26
Zestafoni (R)	30	6	8	16	40	61	26

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

GIBRALTAR

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln RI (C)	21	19	1	1	80	12	58
College Europa	21	12	6	3	42	14	42
Lynx	21	10	8	3	36	18	38
St Joseph's	21	12	2	7	36	18	38
Manchester 62	21	7	6	8	22	25	27
Glacis Utd	21	4	3	14	14	50	15
Britannia XI	21	2	3	16	13	67	9
Lions Gibraltar	21	1	5	15	9	48	8

No relegation this season

HUNGARY

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Videoton (C)	30	22	5	3	64	14	71
Ferencvaros	30	19	7	4	49	19	64
MTK	30	18	3	9	39	25	57
Debrecen	30	15	9	6	44	19	54
Paks	30	14	9	7	44	27	51
Ujpest	30	14	9	7	40	28	51
Diosgyor	30	13	9	8	43	36	48
Gyor (R)[1]	30	10	8	12	41	44	38
Kecskemet (R)[1]	30	10	8	12	30	39	38
Puskas Acad	30	10	5	15	35	40	35
Pecs (R)[1]	30	8	7	15	32	51	31
Nyir'haza (R)[1]	30	8	6	16	33	49	30
Honved	30	6	10	14	26	36	28
Haladas	30	7	4	19	26	53	25
Dun'varos[2] (R)	30	5	8	17	26	49	22
Papa (R)	30	4	7	19	14	57	19

[1]Relegated after being refused licence
[2]1pt deducted for fielding an ineligible player

ISRAEL

Division split after 26-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2014-15 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M Tel Aviv[1] (C)	36	21	9	6	67	32	70
Kiryat Shmona	36	18	10	8	53	38	64
Beer Sheva	36	17	11	8	63	40	62
Beitar[2]	36	13	13	10	48	43	51
Mac Haifa	36	14	8	14	51	37	50
M Petah Tikva	36	12	12	12	34	41	48

2014-15 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bnei Sakhnin	33	11	11	11	43	44	44
Hap Tel Aviv[1]	33	12	8	13	36	40	42
Netanya	33	11	8	14	46	54	41
Ra'anana	33	10	9	14	35	36	39
Acre	33	9	11	13	28	42	38
Hap Haifa	33	9	7	17	25	47	34
H P Tikva (R)	33	8	8	17	43	59	32
Ashdod (R)	33	6	13	14	32	51	31

[1]2pts deducted for violence during the Tel Aviv derby in November
[2]1pt deducted after fans made racist chants

LUXEMBOURG

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fola (C)	26	19	4	3	63	21	61
Differdange	26	18	5	3	61	31	59
F91	26	16	6	4	55	20	54
Progres	26	15	5	6	51	29	50
Jeunesse E	26	12	8	6	46	34	44
Victoria	26	8	7	11	36	46	31
Etzella	26	9	3	14	36	50	30
Mondorf	26	8	5	13	30	40	29
Grevenmacher	26	8	5	13	24	48	29
Rumelange	26	7	7	12	29	38	28
Wiltz	26	7	6	13	29	38	27
Kaerjeng (R)[1]	26	8	3	15	33	52	27
Hostert (R)	26	5	8	13	35	52	23
Jeunesse C (R)	26	3	6	17	16	45	15

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

MACEDONIA

Division split after 27-round regular season; teams carried forward full regular-season record

2014-15 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vardar (C)	32	20	9	3	56	21	69
Rabotnicki	32	20	6	6	55	30	66
Shkendija	32	18	5	9	58	31	59
Renova	32	13	9	10	41	39	48
Sileks	32	10	11	11	33	42	41
Metalurg	32	8	9	15	34	42	33

2014-15 – RELEGATION GROUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bregalnica	33	13	9	11	33	29	48
Turnovo[1]	33	9	9	15	26	37	36
Pelister (R)	33	7	9	17	21	35	30
Teteks (R)	33	3	6	24	22	73	15

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

MOLDOVA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milsami (C)	24	17	4	3	50	15	55
Dacia	24	17	4	3	48	13	55
Sheriff	24	17	4	3	56	16	55
Tiraspol	24	14	2	8	49	28	44
Saxan	24	8	6	10	20	30	30
Zimbru	24	7	6	11	23	19	27
Academia	24	5	2	17	18	47	17
Dinamo-Auto	24	4	2	18	23	63	14
Zaria	24	4	0	20	10	66	12
Costuleni[1] (R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veris[1] (R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1]Costuleni & Veris both excluded from league mid-season; all results expunged

MONTENEGRO

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rudar (C)	33	22	6	5	58	18	72
Sutjeska	33	20	9	4	58	23	69
Buducnost	33	18	9	6	46	20	63
Mladost	33	16	9	8	53	36	57
Grbalj	33	15	7	11	52	44	52
Lovcen	33	15	5	13	42	32	50
Petrovac	33	12	7	14	30	35	43
Bokelj	33	11	8	14	38	45	41
Zeta	33	11	7	15	48	44	40
Mornar[1]	33	9	5	19	32	63	32
Mogren (R)[1]	33	5	6	22	26	70	21
Berane (R)	33	3	4	26	25	78	13

[1]Mornar stay in top division after winning their rel/prom play-off; Mogren relegated after losing their rel/prom play-off

SAN MARINO

Championship Final
May 26: Folgore 3 Juvenes/Dogana 1.

SERBIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan (C)	30	21	8	1	67	22	71
Red Star	30	19	7	4	46	20	64
Cukaricki	30	16	9	5	48	24	57
Vojvodina	30	16	4	10	44	36	52
Novi Pazar	30	13	8	9	39	28	47
Rad	30	13	4	13	33	38	43
Mladost	30	11	7	12	41	47	40
OFK	30	10	9	11	35	43	39
Radnicki Nis	30	9	10	11	25	31	37
Jagodina	30	10	5	15	38	45	35
Spartak	30	9	7	14	23	33	34
Vozdovac	30	9	7	14	24	37	34
Borac	30	8	9	13	29	35	33
Napredak (R)[1]	30	8	7	15	23	34	31
Donji Srem (R)	30	6	8	16	25	42	26
Rad'ki 1923 (R)	30	4	7	19	17	42	19

[1]Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off

SLOVAKIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trencin (C)	33	23	5	5	67	28	74
Zilina	33	20	9	4	68	25	69
Slovan	33	18	3	12	49	42	57
Spartak Trn'va	33	16	8	9	53	31	56
Senica	33	12	11	10	52	50	47
Kosice (R)[1]	33	11	8	14	43	48	41
Ruzomberok	33	10	10	13	41	45	40
DAC	33	9	12	12	32	44	39
Spartak Myj'va	33	11	6	16	38	53	39
Zlate Moravce	33	8	8	17	27	54	32
Podbrezova	33	7	8	18	32	54	29
Dukla (R)	33	4	10	19	29	57	22

[1]Relegated after being refused a licence to play in next season's top division

SLOVENIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maribor (C)	36	24	7	5	74	32	79
Celje	36	20	10	6	58	31	70
Domzale	36	21	5	10	52	22	68
Olimpija	36	17	10	9	55	32	61
Zavrc	36	15	4	17	38	52	49
Rudar	36	12	10	14	44	43	46
Krka	36	11	7	18	38	54	40
Koper	36	12	4	20	35	58	40
Gorica[1]	36	10	7	19	40	46	37
Radomlje (R)	36	4	4	28	21	85	16

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

1st knockout round (last 16)

1st legs

Apr 28
Universitario Sucre (Bol) 1 (Gonzalez 2)
Tigres (Mex) 2 (Esqueda 55, Alvarez 63)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)

May 5
Estudiantes (Arg) 2 (Auzqui 21, Carrillo 30)
Santa Fe (Col) 1 (Morelo 81)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Arias (Par)

May 6
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) 2 (Douglas Santos 14, Leonardo Silva 90+4)
Internacional (Bra) 2 (Lopez 2, Valdivia 61)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)

May 6
Guarani (Par) 2 (Santander 60, Contrera 82)
Corinthians (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Fedorczuk (Uru)

May 6
Sao Paulo (Bra) 1 (Centurion 83)
Cruzeiro (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

May 7
Emelec (Ecu) 2 (Herrera 41, Bolanos 74)
Atletico Nacional (Col) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Marques (Bra)

May 7
River Plate (Arg) 1 (Sanchez pen 82)
Boca Juniors (Arg) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Delfino (Arg)
Sent off: Gutierrez (River Plate) 88

May 7
Wanderers (Uru) 1 (Santos 55)
Racing Club (Arg) 1 (Fernandez 87)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cortez (Bra)

2nd legs

May 5
Tigres 1 (Rafael Sobis pen 76)
Universitario Sucre 1 (Cuesta 2)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
Tigres 3-2 on agg

May 12
Santa Fe 2 (Meza 34, Rivera 80)
Estudiantes 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)
Santa Fe 3-2 on agg

May 13
Corinthians 0
Guarani 1 (Fernandez 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Osses (Chl)
Sent off: Fabio Santos 53, Jadson 69 (both Corinthians)
Guarani 3-0 on agg

May 13
Cruzeiro 1 (Leandro Damiao 55)
Sao Paulo 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Agg 1-1; Cruzeiro 4-3 on pens

May 13
Internacional 3 (Valdivia 22, D'Alessandro 45+1, Lopez 80)
Atletico Mineiro 1 (Pratto 59)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
Internacional 5-3 on agg

May 14
Atletico Nacional 1 (Henriquez 61)
Emelec 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Sent off: P Quinonez (Emelec) 42
Emelec 2-1 on agg

May 14
Boca Juniors 0
River Plate 0
Ref: Herrera (Arg)
Match abandoned after Boca fans threw pepper spray at the River Plate players as they returned to the field after half-time
Boca disqualified from tournament – River Plate went through

May 14
Racing Club 2 (Camacho 16, Bou 40)
Wanderers 1 (Olivera 89)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Racing Club 3-2 on agg

Quarter-finals

1st legs

May 19
Emelec 1 (Bolanos 63)
Tigres 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rapallini (Arg)

May 20
Santa Fe 1 (Mosquera 90+2)
Internacional 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)

May 21
Guarani 1 (Benitez 85)
Racing Club 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ricci (Bra)
Sent off: Lollo (Racing) 41

May 21
River Plate 0
Cruzeiro 1 (Marquinhos 82)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Osses (Chl)

2nd legs

May 26
Tigres 2 (Rafael Sobis 6, Rivas 80)
Emelec 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)
Tigres 2-1 on agg

May 27
Cruzeiro 0
River Plate 3 (Sanchez 20, Maidana 45, Gutierrez 52)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Sent off: Gabriel Xavier (Cruzeiro) 87
River Plate 3-1 on agg

May 27
Internacional 2 (Juan 3, Perlaza og 87)
Santa Fe 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Sent off: Mosquera 67, Anchico 82, Borja (from the bench) 90+6 (all Santa Fe)
Internacional 2-1 on agg

May 28
Racing Club 0
Guarani 0
Ref: Cunha (Uru)
Sent off: Saja (Racing) 45
Guarani 1-0 on agg

Semi-finals draw

Internacional v Tigres
River Plate v Guarani
1st legs - July 14/15; 2nd legs - July 21/22

BOLIVIA

2014-15 – CLAUSURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar (C)	22	14	4	4	44	22	46
The Strongest	22	12	6	4	48	28	42
Wilstermann	22	10	9	3	23	15	39
Blooming	22	9	8	5	32	22	35
Oriente	22	9	7	6	39	25	34
Real Potosi	22	10	3	9	30	23	33
San Jose	22	7	6	9	33	29	27
Petrolero Y'ba	22	5	11	6	21	25	26
Univ'tario S	22	7	3	12	27	36	24
Nacional	22	5	8	9	24	29	23
Sport Boys[1]	22	5	3	14	24	42	18
Univ'tario P (R)	22	2	6	14	15	64	12

Relegation determined by points-per-game average over 2 most recent seasons

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

COLOMBIA

2015 Apertura

REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Huila (Q)	20	12	5	3	33	22	41
Envigado (Q)	20	10	6	4	21	13	36
Dep Cali (Q)	20	10	5	5	36	24	35
I Medellin (Q)	20	10	5	5	31	22	35
Millonarios (Q)	20	9	7	4	36	23	34
At Nacional (Q)	20	10	4	6	33	24	34
Tolima (Q)	20	9	6	5	29	16	33
Junior (Q)	20	9	6	5	27	16	33
Santa Fe	20	8	7	5	29	19	31
Aguilas D'das	20	8	6	6	23	16	30
Patriotas	20	7	6	7	17	18	27
La Equidad	20	6	8	6	21	21	26
Once Caldas	20	5	8	7	29	32	23
Cortulua	20	5	6	9	22	25	21
Jaguares	20	5	6	9	21	32	21
Al Petrolera	20	3	11	6	17	22	20
Boyaca Chico	20	3	8	9	16	29	17
Cucuta	20	2	9	9	16	33	15
Uniautonoma	20	3	6	11	13	30	15
Dep Pasto	20	2	3	15	11	44	9

Top 8 qualified for championship play-offs

Quarter-finals

Atletico Nacional v Dep Cali 3-3, 0-1 (agg 3-4)
Junior v Ind Medellin 0-3 (awarded), 0-1 (agg 0-4)
Millonarios v Envigado 4-0, 2-3 (agg 6-3)
Tolima v Atletico Huila 2-1, 3-2 (agg 5-3)

Semi-finals

Millonarios v Dep Cali 3-2, 0-1
(agg 3-3, Dep Cali 4-3 on pens)
Tolima v Ind Medellin 0-0, 1-3 (agg 1-3)

Final

1st leg - Jun 3; 2nd leg - Jun 7
Dep Cali v Ind Medellin 1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)

PARAGUAY

2015 – APERTURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C Porteno (C)	22	16	4	2	41	19	52
Guarani	22	15	2	5	40	26	47
Libertad	22	10	8	4	30	23	38
Olimpia	22	9	8	5	32	22	35
Luqueno	22	10	4	8	35	29	34
Sol America	22	8	7	7	26	26	31
Rubio Nu	22	6	8	8	34	36	26
Nacional	22	5	7	10	28	37	22
Santani	22	4	9	9	27	33	21
General Diaz	22	5	6	11	26	32	21
Capiata	22	5	6	11	29	41	21
San Lorenzo	22	2	5	15	24	48	11

URUGUAY

2014-15 – CLAUSURA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol (C)	15	9	4	2	28	13	31
River Plate	15	9	2	4	30	17	29
Defensor	15	7	6	2	20	16	27
Danubio	15	8	2	5	17	12	26
Juventud	15	7	4	4	25	17	25
Tacu'embo (R)	15	7	3	5	23	22	24
Cerro[1]	15	7	3	5	21	23	23
Sud America	15	5	7	3	19	19	22
Nacional	15	6	3	6	24	21	21
Fenix	15	6	2	7	18	16	20
Tanque Sisley	15	4	4	7	17	25	16
Wanderers	15	4	3	8	19	18	15
Atenas (R)	15	4	2	9	27	37	14
Rampla (R)	15	4	2	9	18	28	14
Rentistas	15	4	2	9	16	27	14
Racing	15	4	1	10	17	28	13

Relegation determined by overall points gained in 2 most recent seasons

[1]1pt deducted for fan violence

VENEZUELA

2014-15 season title play-off

(apertura winners, Trujillanos v clausura winners, Tachira)
1st leg - May 10; 2nd leg - May 17
Trujillanos v Tachira 0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)

AFRICA

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group stage draw

Group A: Al Hilal (Sud), Moghreb Tetouan (Mor), Smouha (Egy), TP Mazembe (DRC).
Group B: Al Merreikh (Sud), ES Setif (Alg), MC El Eulma (Alg), USM Alger (Alg).
Ties to be played June 26-Sep 13

● *Top 2 in both groups qualify for semi-finals*

CONFEDERATION CUP

Play-off round

(losing teams from the CAF Champions League 2nd round entered at this stage; all played the 1st leg at home)
1st legs - May 15-17; 2nd legs - June 6/7
AC Leopards (Con) v Warri Wolves (Nga)
3-0, 1-3 (agg 4-3)
Al Ahly (Egy) v Club Africain (Tun)
2-1, 1-2 (agg 3-3, Al Ahly 5-4 on pens)
AS Kaloum (Gui) v Orlando Pirates (SAf)
0-2, 1-4 (agg 1-6)
CS Sfaxien (Tun) v ASEC Abidjan (IvC)
2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1)
Esperance (Tun) v Hearts of Oak (Gha)
4-0, 1-1 (agg 5-1)
Raja Casablanca (Mor) v Etoile Sahel (Tun)
2-0, 0-3 (agg 2-3)
Sanga Balende (DRC) v Zamalek (Egy)
1-0, 1-3 (agg 2-3)
Stade Malien (Mli) v AS Vita (DRC)
2-0, 2-3 (agg 4-3)

Group stage draw

Group A: Al Ahly, Esperance, Etoile Sahel, Stade Malien.
Group B: AC Leopards, CS Sfaxien, Orlando Pirates, Zamalek.
Ties to be played June 26-Sep 13

● *Top 2 in both groups qualify for semi-finals*

ALGERIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ES Setif (C)	30	13	9	8	37	28	48
MO Bejaia	30	12	11	7	36	23	47
MC Oran	30	11	11	8	19	19	44
USM Harrach	30	13	4	13	30	32	43
Constantine	30	11	9	10	32	31	42
CR Belouizdad	30	11	9	10	27	34	42
USM Alger	30	10	11	9	35	27	41
ASM Oran	30	11	8	11	33	37	41
Hussein Dey	30	10	10	10	23	22	40
RC Arbaa	30	12	4	14	28	35	40
MC Alger	30	10	9	11	33	31	39
JS Kabylie	30	11	6	13	33	35	39
JS Saoura	30	10	9	11	26	29	39
MC Eulma (R)	30	11	5	14	40	36	38
ASO Chlef (R)	30	8	12	10	24	28	36
Bel Abbes (R)	30	8	9	13	19	28	33

BOTSWANA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Centre Ch'fs (C)	30	20	8	2	62	27	68
Orapa United	30	18	7	5	43	24	61
T'ship Rollers	30	18	5	7	61	29	59
Gaborone Utd	30	14	8	8	40	29	50
Defence Force	30	14	7	9	38	28	49
Police XI	30	11	10	9	31	30	43
Ex'n Gunners	30	12	7	11	26	27	43
Meat Com'sion	30	10	10	10	42	36	40
Nico United	30	10	9	11	41	31	39
Highlanders	30	11	6	13	32	46	39
Motlakase	30	10	7	13	35	46	37
S Bush Bucks	30	10	5	15	37	40	35
Satmos	30	9	5	16	34	47	32
Notwane (R)	30	8	7	15	37	51	31
Letlapeng (R)	30	5	5	20	21	56	20
ECCO City (R)	30	4	6	20	23	56	18

MOROCCO

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wydad C (C)	30	16	11	3	48	21	59
Olympique K	30	16	8	6	29	17	56
Kawkab	30	13	8	9	31	26	47
Moghreb	30	11	12	7	36	29	45
FUS	30	11	12	7	34	28	45
Hassania	30	10	10	10	42	46	40
Difaa	30	10	9	11	26	23	39
Raja	30	9	11	10	37	34	38
RSB	30	6	18	6	25	24	36
Maghreb	30	8	12	10	34	35	36
FAR	30	7	13	10	31	26	34
Olympic Safi	30	8	10	12	20	35	34
KAC	30	8	9	13	25	29	33
Chabab RH	30	7	11	12	26	43	32
Chabab AK (R)	30	8	8	14	23	37	32
Ittihad K (R)	30	5	12	13	26	40	27

TUNISIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
C Africain (C)	30	20	5	5	50	18	65
Etoile Sahel[1]	30	19	7	4	47	17	63
Esperance T	30	17	9	4	52	21	60
CS Sfaxien	30	11	14	5	35	21	47
Esperance Z	30	11	12	7	35	25	45
AS Marsa	30	10	13	7	33	37	43
Std Tunisien	30	12	7	11	29	32	43
CA Bizertin	30	9	14	7	21	21	41
JS Kairouan	30	9	11	10	32	33	38
Std Gabesien	30	9	10	11	20	28	37
Hammam-Lif	30	9	9	12	30	35	36
ES Metlaoui	30	8	8	14	24	40	32
EGS Gafsa	30	6	12	12	26	39	30
Monastir (R)	30	3	16	11	20	31	25
AS Gabes (R)	30	5	4	21	21	44	19
AS Djerba (R)	30	4	5	21	23	56	17

[1]1pt deducted for refusing to play their away game at Hammam-Lif in protest at having a goal disallowed in a previous game

CONCACAF

BELIZE

2014-15 Clausura Final

1st leg - May 7; 2nd leg - May 17

Belmopan Bandits v Verdes 1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)

CAYMAN ISLANDS

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scholars (C)	21	12	7	2	45	21	43
Elite	21	10	5	6	43	33	35
Cayman Ath	21	8	6	7	47	45	30
Sunset	21	9	2	10	32	30	29
Bodden Town	21	7	7	7	34	36	28
George Town	21	7	4	10	29	32	25
Roma United	21	4	10	7	22	27	22
Cay'n Brac (R)	21	4	5	12	28	56	17

COSTA RICA

2014-15 Clausura Final

1st leg - May 19; 2nd leg - May 23

Alajuelense v Herediano 1-1, 2-2 (aet)
(agg 3-3, Herediano 3-2 on pens)

HONDURAS

2014-15 Clausura Final

1st leg - May 20; 2nd leg - May 24

Motagua v Olimpia 1-2, 0-0 (agg 1-2)

JAMAICA

2014-15 Championship Final

June 1: Montego Bay United 0 Arnett Gardens 2.

MEXICO

2014-15 Clausura

REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tigres (Q)	17	9	2	6	23	15	29
America (Q)	17	8	5	4	21	18	29
Veracruz (Q)	17	7	7	3	28	18	28
Atlas (Q)	17	8	4	5	20	21	28
Guadalajara (Q)	17	7	5	5	20	16	26
Queretaro (Q)	17	8	2	7	25	23	26
Pachuca (Q)	17	7	4	6	25	21	25
Santos L (Q)	17	7	4	6	24	21	25
Cruz Azul	17	7	4	6	14	14	25
Toluca	17	6	6	5	20	18	24
Tijuana	17	7	3	7	30	30	24
Monterrey	17	7	3	7	24	27	24
Pumas	17	6	4	7	22	27	22
Puebla	17	5	5	7	21	20	20
Chiapas	17	5	5	7	21	30	20
L Negros (R)	17	5	3	9	13	19	18
Leon	17	4	4	9	27	32	16
Morelia	17	3	4	10	17	25	13

Top 8 qualified for championship play-offs; relegation determined by points-per-game average over 3 most recent seasons

Quarter-finals

Guadalajara v Atlas 0-0, 4-1 (agg 4-1)
Pachuca v America 3-2, 4-3 (agg 7-5)
Queretaro v Veracruz 2-1, 2-2 (agg 4-3)
Santos Laguna v Tigres 1-1, 1-0 (agg 2-1)

Semi-finals

Pachuca v Queretaro 2-0, 0-2 (agg 2-2,
Queretaro on better regular-season record)
Santos Laguna v Guadalajara
0-0, 3-0 (agg 3-0)

Final

1st leg - May 28; 2nd leg - May 31

Santos Laguna v Queretaro 5-0, 0-3 (agg 5-3)

PANAMA

2014-15 Clausura Final

May 30: Arabe Unido 2 Independiente 1.

ASIA

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

1st knockout round (last 16)

1st legs - May 19/20; 2nd legs - May 26/27

Al Ahli (UAE) v Al Ain (UAE)
0-0, 3-3 (agg 3-3, Al Ahli on away goals)
Al Sadd (Qat) v Lekhwiya (Qat)
1-2, 2-2 (agg 3-4)
Jeonbuk Motors (SKo) v Beijing Guoan (Chn)
1-1, 1-0 (agg 2-1)
Naft Tehran (Irn) v Al Ahli (Sau)
1-0, 1-2 (agg 2-2, Naft Tehran on away goals)
Persepolis (Irn) v Al Hilal (Sau)
1-0, 0-3 (agg 1-3)
Seongnam (SKo) v Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn)
2-1, 0-2 (agg 2-3)
Seoul (SKo) v Gamba Osaka (Jap)
1-3, 2-3 (agg 3-6)
Suwon Bluewings (SKo) v Kashiwa Reysol (Jap)
2-3, 2-1 (agg 4-4, Kashiwa on away goals)

AFC CUP

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Wehdat (Jr)	6	4	1	1	16	3	13
Al Wahda (Syr)	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Al Nahda (Om)	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Salam Z (Leb)	6	1	0	5	5	18	3

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Shorta (Irq)	6	2	3	1	14	7	9
Al Jazeera (Jr)	6	2	3	1	6	7	9
Wad Al'ss (Pal)	6	1	3	2	6	11	6
Al Hidd (Bhr)	6	0	5	1	6	7	5

GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Istiklol (Taj)	6	3	2	1	12	8	11
Qadsia (Kuw)	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Arbil (Irq)	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Ahal (Tkm)	6	2	0	4	8	13	6

GROUP D – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Jaish (Syr)	6	4	2	0	6	1	14
Kuwait SC (Kw)	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Riffa (Bhr)	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Nejmeh (Leb)	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

GROUP E – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Persipura (Ins)	6	5	1	0	17	4	16
Bengaluru (Ind)	6	4	0	2	8	8	12
Maziya (Mdv)	6	2	1	3	7	6	7
Warriors (Sin)	6	0	0	6	1	15	0

GROUP F – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Johor DT (Mly)	6	5	0	1	11	3	15
Kitchee (HK)	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
E Bengal (Ind)	6	1	2	3	8	10	5
Balestier (Sin)	6	1	0	5	3	13	3

GROUP G – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sth China (HK)	6	6	0	0	19	3	18
Pahang (Mly)	6	2	2	2	11	10	8
Global (Phi)	6	1	2	3	5	12	5
Yad'bon (Mya)	6	1	0	5	10	20	3

GROUP H – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Persib B'g (Ins)	6	3	3	0	10	5	12
Ay'wady (Mya)	6	2	4	0	13	9	10
N Radiant (Mv)	6	1	2	3	4	10	5
Lao (Lao)	6	0	3	3	7	10	3

● *Top 2 in each group qualified for 1st knockout round*

1st knockout round (last 16)

(single-leg ties)

May 26: Al Wehdat 0 Qadsia SC 1;
Istiklol 1 Al Wahda 1 (aet, Istiklol 4-2 on pens);
Persipura Jayapura 0 Pahang 3 (awarded);
South China 2 Bengaluru 0.
May 27: Al Jaish 1 Al Jazeera 0; Al Shorta 0
Kuwait SC 2; Johor Darul Ta'zim 5
Ayeyawady United 0; Persib Bandung 0 Kitchee 2.

AUSTRALIA

2014-15 Championship

REGULAR – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb'rne V (Q)	27	15	8	4	56	31	53
Sydney (Q)	27	14	8	5	52	35	50
Adelaide (Q)	27	14	4	9	47	32	46
Welling'n P (Q)	27	14	4	9	45	35	46
Melb'rne C (Q)	27	9	8	10	36	41	35
Brisbane (Q)	27	10	4	13	42	43	34
Perth[1]	27	14	8	5	45	35	50
Central Coast	27	5	8	14	26	50	23
West Sydney	27	4	6	17	29	44	18
Newcastle	27	3	8	16	23	55	17

Top 6 qualified for championship play-offs (the top 2 went directly into semi-finals), all single-leg ties; no relegation from this league

[1]Perth were placed 7th at the end of the regular season – therefore missing out on the play-offs – for breaching their salary cap

Elimination finals

May 1: Adelaide 2 Brisbane 1.
May 3: Wellington Phoenix 0 Melbourne City 2.

Semi-finals

May 8: Melbourne Victory 3 Melbourne City 0.
May 9: Sydney 4 Adelaide 1.

Final

May 17: Melbourne Victory 3 Sydney 0.

BAHRAIN

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Muharraq (C)	18	12	4	2	41	18	40
Al Hadd	18	12	3	3	29	15	39
Manama	18	10	3	5	31	20	33
East Riffa	18	10	3	5	30	24	33
Al Riffa	18	9	4	5	26	17	31
Busaiteen	18	5	4	9	17	31	19
Al Hala	18	5	4	9	22	39	19
Malkiya	18	5	3	10	17	28	18
Bahrain	18	3	4	11	22	29	13
Al Shabab (R)	18	2	2	14	12	26	8

IRAN

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sepahan (C)	30	17	8	5	46	27	59
Tractor Sazi	30	17	7	6	58	34	58
Naft Tehran	30	16	10	4	45	28	58
Zob Ahan	30	14	10	6	46	26	52
Foolad	30	15	7	8	33	24	52
Esteghlal T	30	13	8	9	40	34	47
Saipa	30	11	8	11	36	34	41
Persepolis	30	9	9	12	31	35	36
Saba Qom	30	8	10	12	25	34	34
Padideh	30	6	15	9	23	25	33
Gostaresh	30	6	13	11	30	39	31
Rah Ahan	30	8	7	15	27	48	31
Malavan	30	6	12	12	26	34	30
Esteghlal K[1]	30	4	15	11	35	46	27
Paykan (R)	30	4	14	12	16	29	26
Naft MS (R)	30	3	13	14	19	39	22

[1]Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off

JORDAN

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Wehdat (C)	22	14	6	2	39	10	48
Al Jazeera	22	11	8	3	25	15	41
Al Ramtha	22	10	6	6	26	21	36
That Ras	22	8	9	5	24	16	33
Al Ahli	22	8	6	8	19	20	30
Al Sareeh	22	8	4	10	21	24	28
Al Faisaly	22	6	9	7	14	17	27
Al Buqa'a	22	6	9	7	18	24	27
Al Hussein	22	6	8	8	23	29	26
Shabab Ordon	22	6	8	8	16	23	26
Mansheyat (R)	22	6	7	9	20	25	25
Ittihad Al R (R)	22	0	6	16	16	37	6

SAUDI ARABIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Nassr (C)	26	20	4	2	62	20	64
Al Ahli	26	17	9	0	59	22	60
Al Hilal	26	16	6	4	46	17	54
Al Ittihad	26	16	4	6	44	33	52
Al Shabab	26	11	7	8	37	31	40
Al Fateh	26	9	6	11	35	43	33
Al Faisaly	26	8	6	12	31	42	30
Al Khaleej	26	7	8	11	35	41	29
Al Taawon	26	7	7	12	42	46	28
Hajer	26	8	4	14	29	56	28
Al Raed	26	7	5	14	33	45	26
Najran	26	7	3	16	28	41	24
Al Shoalah (R)	26	5	6	15	26	48	21
Al Orubah (R)	26	4	5	17	21	43	17

OCEANIA

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

2015 Championship Final

May 23: Lae City Dwellers 4 Madang 1.

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions
(R) = relegated
(Q) = qualified for next stage

Internationals

2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

ASIA
2nd round

Group F

May 24 - Bangkok
Thailand 1 (Pokkhao 80)
Vietnam 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Williams (Aus)
Thailand: Sinthaweechai - Theeraton, Kroekrit (Adisak 76), Suttinan, Sarach, Teerasil, Sanrawat (Pokkhao 66), Narubadin, Koravit, Chanathip, Ekkachai (Sarawut 65).
Vietnam: To Vinh Loi - Nguyen Huy Cuong (Dinh Tien Thanh 46; Mai Tien Thanh 56), Que Ngoc Hai, Nguyen Minh Chau, Nguyen Trong Hoang, Le Cong Vinh, Vo Huy Toan, Nguyen Hai Anh (Mac Hong Quan 60), Dang Khanh Lam, Nguyen Thanh Hien, Nguyen Minh Tung. *Sent off: Nguyen Minh Chau 73.*

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thailand	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Indonesia excluded after being suspended by FIFA for government interference in the national FA

WINDWARD ISLANDS TOURNAMENT

Played in Vieux Fort, St Lucia

May 12
Grenada 2 (S Rennie 39, 79)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 3 (E George 34, M Samuel 76, pen 86)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)
Sent off: S Rennie (Grenada) 84; Hamlet (St Vincent) 90

May 12
St Lucia 1 (St Prix 16)
Dominica 1 (Elizee 83)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gaymes (SVG)

May 14
Grenada 1 (Langaigne 18)
Dominica 2 (Wade 20, Elizee 75)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Robinson (StL)

May 14
St Lucia 1 (Felix 41)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 2 (E George 76, M Samuel 86)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Blanc (Dca)

May 16
Dominica 0
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (M Samuel 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)

May 16
St Lucia 0
Grenada 2 (J Charles 3, 74)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gaymes (SVG)

WINDWARD ISLANDS TOURNAMENT – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Vincent & G	3	3	0	0	6	3	9
Dominica	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Grenada	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
St Lucia	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

COSAFA CUP

Played in South Africa

Group A

May 17: Namibia 0 Seychelles 0; Zimbabwe 2 Mauritius 0.
May 19: Seychelles 0 Zimbabwe 1; Namibia 2 Mauritius 0.
May 21: Namibia 4 Zimbabwe 1; Seychelles 0 Mauritius 1.

COSAFA CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Namibia (Q)	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Zimbabwe	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
Mauritius	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Seychelles	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

Group B

May 18: Lesotho 1 Madagascar 2; Tanzania 0 Swaziland 1.
May 20: Madagascar 2 Tanzania 0; Lesotho 0 Swaziland 2.
May 22: Madagascar 1 Swaziland 1; Lesotho 1 Tanzania 0.

COSAFA CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Madagascar (Q)	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Swaziland	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Lesotho	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
Tanzania	3	0	0	3	0	4	0

● *Group winners qualified for the quarter-finals*

Byes to quarter-finals: *Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia*

Quarter-finals

May 24 - Moruleng
Zambia 0
Namibia 0
Namibia 5-4 on pens

May 24 - Moruleng
South Africa 0
Botswana 0
Botswana 7-6 on pens

May 25 - Rustenburg
Ghana 1 (Darkwah 37)
Madagascar 2 (Randriamanjaka 28, Simouri 90)
HT: 1-1

May 25 - Rustenburg
Mozambique 2 (Malata og 10, Mzava og 90+2)
Malawi 2 (Sulumba 51, Mzava pen 90)
HT: 1-0
Mozambique 5-4 on pens

● *Losing quarter-finalists advanced to compete in the Plate competition (see below)*

Semi-finals

May 28 - Moruleng
Madagascar 2 (Vombola 22, 27)
Namibia 3 (Shilongo 18, 32, Shalulile 84)
HT: 2-2

May 28 - Moruleng
Botswana 1 (Kebatho 78)
Mozambique 2 (Decarvalho 65, Parkim 88)
HT: 0-0

3rd-place match

May 30 - Moruleng
Madagascar 2 (Vombola 16, 18)
Botswana 1 (Boy 84)
HT: 2-0

Final

May 30 - Moruleng
Namibia 2 (Hotto 38, 74)
Mozambique 0
HT: 1-0

Plate semi-finals

(for the losing quarter-finalists)
May 27: Zambia 3 Ghana 0; South Africa 0 Malawi 0 (Malawi 5-4 on pens).

Plate Final

May 29: Malawi 1 Zambia 0.

GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION CUP

Played in Kigali, Rwanda

June 6: Rwanda 0 Kenya 0.
June 7: Kenya 2 South Sudan 0; Rwanda 2 Tanzania 0.

Tournament not completed because the Tanzania and South Sudan teams were late arriving in Rwanda

FRIENDLIES

Thursday, April 30

Apr 30 - Paramaribo
Surinam 1 (Rigters 24)
Guyana 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Dolaini (Sur)

Sunday, May 10

May 10 - Bridgetown
Barbados 1 (Harte 40)
St Kitts & Nevis 3 (Isles 29, Elliott 52, Rogers 90+5)
HT: 1-1

May 10 - Lusaka
Zambia 2 (Munthali 34, Mtonga 39)
Malawi 0
HT: 2-0

Tuesday, May 12

May 12 - Almaty
Kazakhstan 0
Burkina Faso 0

Wednesday, May 13

May 13 - Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic 6 (K Rodriguez 36, Lopez 40, Batista 45, Valerio 74, 88, Feliz 90)
Cayman Islands 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Hidalgo (DoR)

Thursday, May 14

May 14 - Maseru
Lesotho 0
South Africa 0

Sunday, May 17

May 17 - Hanoi
Vietnam 1 (Mac Hong Quan 64)
North Korea 1 (pen 84)
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, May 20

May 20 - Almere
Curacao 3 (Merencia, Rajcomar, Wall)
Surinam 2 (Hasselbaink, Snijders)
HT: 1-1

May 20
Thailand 0
North Korea 1
HT: 0-1

Friday, May 22

May 22 - Rustenburg
South Africa 2 (Segolela 15, Bhengu 25)
Malawi 1 (Phiri 58)
HT: 2-0

Sunday, May 24

May 24 - Sidon
Lebanon 2 (Abbas Ali Atwi 62, Ghaddar pen 66)
Syria 2 (Al Hussain 7, Mardikian 60)
HT: 0-1

Friday, May 29

May 29 - Vientiane
Laos 0
Afghanistan 2 (Shayesta, Yousufi)

Saturday, May 30

May 30 - Riffa
Bahrain 0
Oman 0

May 30 - Dhaka
Bangladesh 1 (N Chowdhury 4)
Singapore 2 (Fazrul 32, Khairul Amri 73)
HT: 1-1

May 30 - Irbid
Jordan 0
Lebanon 0

May 30 - Tuxtla Gutierrez
Mexico 3 (E Herrera 31, 63, J M Corona 74)
Guatemala 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Toledo (USA)
Mexico: J J Corona (M Hernandez 46) - Flores (Aquino 66), Dominguez, Ayala, Salcedo (Valenzuela 50), Velarde, J C Medina, Guemez, Montes (J M Corona 46), Vuoso (Fabian 50), E Herrera (R Jimenez 66).
Guatemala: Jerez - D Lopez, Lalin, Cincotta (Rodas 46), Castrillo, Contreras (Miranda 60), Marquez (De Leon 58), Avila (Longo 67), C Ruiz (Mejia 46), Aparicio, Arreola (M Lopez 46).

Sunday, May 31

May 31 - Washington DC, USA
Honduras 2 (M Martinez pen 7, Lozano 26)
El Salvador 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Penso (USA)
Honduras: Valladares - Beckeles, J Palacios, M Figueroa, B Garcia, A Mejia (Andino 81), A Peralta (Acosta 55), M Martinez (Discua 59), Najar (Castillo 72), Lozano, Hernandez (C Mejia 64). *Sent off: Lozano 36.*
El Salvador: Carrillo - Garcia (Romero 90), Molina, Mendoza, Larin, J Alas, Santamaria (Herrera 79), Renderos (Maldonado 62), N Orellana (Landaverde 81), Corea (Torres 63), Rugamas (N Bonilla 68).

May 31 - Crewe, England
Northern Ireland 1 (Dallas 47)
Qatar 1 (Boudiaf 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,022. **Ref:** Oliver (Eng)
Northern Ireland: Carroll (McGovern 46) - C McLaughlin, Hughes (J Evans 61), Cathcart, D Lafferty, McNair (Magennis 82), McGinn (Ward 61), C Evans, Dallas (McCourt 73), Norwood, Grigg (Boyce 73).

Tuesday, June 2

June 2 - Dhaka
Bangladesh 1 (J Hassan)
Afghanistan 1 (Shenwari)
HT: 1-0

June 2 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 1 (Laboravy 46)
Laos 1 (Phimmasen 50)
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, June 3

June 3 - Panama City
Panama 1 (R Torres pen 62)
Ecuador 1 (Martinez 51)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Delgadillo (Mex)
Panama: Penedo - Cummings, Davis (Peralta 46), R Torres (Parris 79), Machado (Chen 46), Quintero (Pimentel 85), Cooper, G Gomez, Escobar (Godoy 46), Tejada (Camargo 86), B Perez. *Sent off: Godoy 81.*
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes, A Mina, Erazo, Bagui (Pineida 71), P Quinonez, Lastra (Noboa 46), Gonzales (Cazares 74), Martinez, M Bolanos (E Valencia 61), J Ayovi (Montero 46).

June 3 - Lima
Peru 1 (Farfan 63)
Mexico 1 (Valenzuela 76)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ponce (Ecu)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula (Requena 52), Ascues, Zambrano, Cespedes, Ballon, Lobaton (Hurtado 67), Cueva (Reyna 68), Farfan (Pizarro 73), Sanchez (Riojas 80), Guerrero. *Sent off: Requena 78.*
Mexico: Talavera - Flores, Valenzuela, Marquez (Ayala 46), Dominguez, Velarde, Aquino (J M Corona), J C Medina (Guemez 59), Fabian (Montes 65), Esqueda (E Herrera 70), R Jimenez (Corral 87).

Friday, June 5

June 5 - Hamilton
Bermuda 1 (A Simmons 10)
Puerto Rico 1 (D'Andrea 25)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)

June 5 - Nonthaburi, Thailand
Cambodia 1 (Borey 38)
Myanmar 0
HT: 1-0

June 5 - Rancagua
Chile 1 (Valdivia 13)
El Salvador 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,270. **Ref:** Rapallini (Arg)
Chile: Herrera - Isla, Jara, Medel, Beausejour (Mena 64), Aranguiz, M Diaz (Albornoz 81), F Gutierrez (Pizarro 46), Valdivia (Pinilla 63), A Sanchez, Vargas (Henriquez 73).
El Salvador: Contreras - Garcia (Torres 75), Molina, Mendoza, Larin, Menjivar (R Burgos 86), Punyed (N Orellana 65), A Flores (J Alas 52), Renderos, Alvarez (Corea 80), N Bonilla (Herrera 59).

June 5 - Willemstad
Curacao 1 (Vicento 85)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Adelina

June 5 - Amsterdam
Holland 3 (Huntelaar 27, 49, Depay 53)
United States 4 (Zardes 33, Brooks 70, Williams 88, Wood 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Strombergsson (Swe)
Holland: Cillessen - Janmaat (Van der Wiel 46), Bruma, Martins Indi, Blind, Clasie (Sneijder 78), Promes (Narsingh 46), Van Persie (Propper 57), Depay, Wijnaldum, Huntelaar (L De Jong 78).

United States: Guzan - Chandler, Alvarado (Orozco 46), Brooks, Shea (Yedlin 57), Bradley, Beckerman (Williams 63), Morales (Diskerud 56), F Johnson, Johannsson (Wood 65), Zardes (Morris 80).

June 5 - Debrecen
Hungary 4 (Stieber 16, Dzsudzsak 21, Nikolic 30, Priskin 31)
Lithuania 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 5,218. **Ref:** Zelinka (CzR)
Hungary: Dibusz (Kiraly 46) - Fiola (Szelesi 46), Szolnoki, Forro (Leandro 46), Lang, Tozser, Dzsudzsak, Stieber (Varga 46), Priskin (Nemeth 46), Simon, Nikolic (Szalai 46).
Lithuania: Klevinskas - Mikuckis (Freidgeimas 46), Klimavicius, Vaitkunas, Andriuskevicius (Kijanskas 76), Chvedukas (Kuklys 72), D Cesnauskis, Panka, Kazlauskas (Luksa 46), Sirgedas (Slivka 58), Matulevicius (Spalvis 62).

June 5 - Istanbul, Turkey
Jordan 2 (Abdel-Fattah 5, Bani Yaseen 18)
Kuwait 2 (Al Dardour og 70, Neda 80)
HT: 2-0

June 5 - Seeb
Oman 1 (Shebly og 81)
Syria 2 (Jaffal 7, Khribin pen 12)
HT: 0-2

June 5 - Edinburgh
Scotland 1 (Ritchie 41)
Qatar 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,270. **Ref:** Delferiere (Blg)
Scotland: Marshall (Gordon 46) - Forsyth, Greer, Mulgrew, Maloney (Adam 60), Brown (D Fletcher 60), McArthur (Morrison 46), Anya, Ritchie, Naismith (Griffiths 59), Forrest (Russell 74).

June 5 - Bangkok
Thailand 1 (Jakkraphan 50)
Bahrain 1 (Alawi 78)
HT: 0-0

Saturday, June 6

June 6 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 0
Equatorial Guinea 1 (Engonga 17)
HT: 0-1

June 6 - San Juan
Argentina 5 (Di Maria 25, pen 54, Aguero pen 29, 31, 50)
Bolivia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Osorio (Chl)
Argentina: Romero (Guzman 46) - Roncaglia (Casco 60), Garay, Otamendi (Demichelis 60), Rojo, Banega, Gago, Pastore, Lavezzi (Lamela 60), Aguero (Higuain 60), Di Maria.
Bolivia: Quinonez - Rodriguez (Hurtado 46), Eguino (Veizaga 46), Zenteno, Morales, D Bejarano, Gamarra (Raldes 46), Escobar (M Bejarano 67), Lizio (Campos 57), Smedberg, Moreno (Pedriel 66).

June 6 - Paris, France
Burkina Faso 2 (Nakoulma 18, Bance 39)
Cameroon 3 (Aboubakar 35, N'Jie 85, 90+1)
HT: 2-1

June 6 - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Colombia 1 (Falcao 46)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga (Franco 46), C Zapata, Murillo (Valdes 46), Andrade, Sanchez, Valencia (Mejia 46), Juan Cuadrado (Cardona 76), Rodriguez, Falcao (Bacca 61), J Martinez (Gutierrez 61).
Costa Rica: Alvarado - Gamboa (Myrie 85), Brown, Umana, Diaz (Calvo 77), Borges (Guzman 62), Vega, Moya (Aguilar 67), Cubero, Ruiz (Venegas 57), McDonald (Campbell 67).

June 6 - Guayaquil
Ecuador 4 (M Bolanos 27, Martinez 32, 41, Montero 53)
Panama 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Gambetta (Per)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes, Achilier, Erazo (Gonzalez 73), W Ayovi (Bagui 46), Lastra, Noboa (A Mina 73), M Bolanos, Montero (Narvaez 89), Martinez (Cazares 64), E Valencia. *Sent off: A Mina 89.*
Panama: Penedo - Cummings, Chen, R Torres (Machado 46), G Gomez, Cooper (Quintero 46), Pimentel (Pinzon 46), Peralta (Davis 68), Godoy, B Perez (Munoz 46), Tejada (Buitrago 46).

June 6 - Saint-Leu-la-Foret, France
Guinea 1 (A Cisse 62)
Chad 2 (N'Douassel 50, Pogba og 55)
HT: 0-0

June 6 - Shah Alam
Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 0

June 6 - Casablanca, Morocco
Mali 2 (Sow, Diarra)
Libya 2 (Bin Hamid, Lafi)

June 6 - Niamey
Niger 2 (Wonkoye, Sidibe)
Gabon 1 (Tandjigora)

June 6 - Asuncion
Paraguay 2 (Santa Cruz 21, 55)
Honduras 2 (Santa Cruz og 9, Castillo 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 9,500. **Ref:** Falce (Uru)
Paraguay: Villar - M Caceres (B Valdez 68), Da Silva, Balbuena, Samudio, N Ortigoza (Martinez 65), V Caceres, R Ortiz (Gonzalez 46), Haedo Valdez, Santa Cruz (Barrios 72), Benitez (O Romero 46). *Sent off: Haedo Valdez 51.*
Honduras: Escober - Beckeles, M Figueroa, J Palacios, H Figueroa, Izaguirre, A Mejia (Leveron 69), Acosta, M Martinez (Discua 75), Najar (Andino 66), Castillo (Hernandez 58). *Sent off: M Figueroa 51.*

June 6 - Singapore
Singapore 5 (Khairul Amri 7, 56, Hariss 37, Shaiful 44, Fazrul 65)
Brunei 1 (Mui'z Sisa 41)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 1,140

June 6 - Montevideo
Uruguay 5 (Rolan 3, Cavani 19, pen 31, De Arrascaeta 55, Hernandez 56)
Guatemala 1 (Lalin 79)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira (Corujo 57), Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira, Arevalo, Sanchez (Stuani 57), C Rodriguez (De Arrascaeta 46), Lodeiro (A Gonzalez 46), Cavani (Hernandez 46), Rolan (J Rodriguez 66).

Sunday, June 7

June 7 - Sao Paulo
Brazil 2 (Coutinho 28, Diego Tardelli 37)
Mexico 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Quintana (Par)
Brazil: Jefferson - Danilo (Fabinho 46), Miranda, David Luiz, Filipe Luis, Fernandinho, Elias (Casemiro 78), Willian (Douglas Costa 74), Coutinho (Everton Ribeiro 70), Fred (Felipe Anderson 83), Diego Tardelli (Roberto Firmino 59).
Mexico: J J Corona - Ayala (Salcedo 46), Marquez, Dominguez, Corral (Flores 46), Osuna (Fabian 46), Guemez (J C Medina 67), J M Corona (Montes 76), Aldrete, E Herrera, R Jimenez (Vuoso 65).

June 7 - Varazdin
Croatia 4 (Sharbini 7, Kovacic 15, Mandzukic pen 53, Kramaric 77)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Croatia: Subasic - Vrsaljko, Jedvaj, Leskovic, Leovac, Badelj (Jalalo 65), Pjaca (Perisic 57), Brozovic (Pasalic 65), Kovacic (Rebic 46), Sharbini (Kramaric 46), Mandzukic (Kalinic 57).

June 7 - Addis Ababa
Ethiopia 0
Zambia 1 (Mukuka 45)
HT: 0-1 *Sent off: Kasim (Ethiopia) 85*

June 7 - Paris
France 3 (Valbuena pen 53, Fekir 89, Payet 90+1)
Belgium 4 (Fellaini 17, 42, Nainggolan 50, E Hazard pen 54)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Strahonja (Cro)
France: Lloris - Sagna, Varane, Koscielny, Tremoulinas, Sissoko, Cabaye (Payet 46), Matuidi, Valbuena (Fekir 73), Giroud (Ntep 79), Griezmann (Lacazette 46).
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Lombaerts, Denayer (Dendoncker 85), Vertonghen, Witsel (Dembele 81), Fellaini (Chadli 77), Nainggolan, Mertens (Ferreira Carrasco 60), Benteke (Lukaku 59), E Hazard.

June 7 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 0
England 0
Att: 43,846. **Ref:** Hunter (NI)
Rep Ireland: Westwood (Given 61) - Coleman, O'Shea (McShane 71), Wilson, Brady, Whelan (Arter 63), McCarthy (McClean 46), Hendrick, McGoldrick (Long 46), Murphy (Walters 56), McGeady.
England: Hart - Jones, Cahill (Jagielka 74), Smalling, Bertrand, Milner, Henderson, Wilshere (Barkley 67), Sterling (Townsend 67), Rooney (Vardy 75), Lallana (Walcott 82).

June 7 - Khimki
Russia 4 (Kokorin 20, Golovin 76, Miranchuk 83, Kerzhakov 90+2)
Belarus 2 (Kislyak 51, 66)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Kruzliak (Slk)
Russia: Akinfeev - Chernov (Makeev 79), Ignashevich, Zhirkov (Miranchuk 71), Kombarov, Smolnikov, Shatov, Shirokov (Golovin 61), Dzagoev (Ivanov 46), Glushakov (Ozdoev 75), Kokorin (Kerzhakov 61).
Belarus: Chernik (Gutor 46) - Shitov, Martynovich, Filipenko (Polyakov 67), Nekhaychik, Dragun, Krivets (Volodko 46), Kislyak (Stasevich 71), Putsilo, A Hleb, Kornilenko (Laptev 71).

June 7 - St Polten, Austria
Serbia 4 (Ivanovic 10, 63, Ljajic 55, L Markovic 89)
Azerbaijan 1 (Nazarov 39)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)
Serbia: Brkic - Ivanovic (Tomovic 76), Maksimovic, Nastasic, Kolarov, Matic (Petrovic 60), Milivojevic (Fejsa 83), Z Tosic, Ljajic (Djuricic 56), Kostic (L Markovic 56), A Mitrovic (Skuletic 73).

Monday, June 8

June 8 - Viborg
Denmark 2 (Eriksen 71, Fischer pen 86)
Montenegro 1 (Jovetic 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,180. **Ref:** Johnsen (Nor)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Jacobsen, Kjaer (Vestergaard 63), Bjelland, S Poulsen (Durmisi 73), Kvist, Hojbjerg (A Christensen 63), Krohn-Dehli (Fischer 73), Eriksen (L Andersen 81), Y Poulsen, Bendtner (M Rasmussen 46).
Montenegro: M Bozovic - Savic, Basa (Saveljic 46), Simic, Tomasevic, Kascelan, N Vukcevic (Boljevic 59), Vesovic (Beciraj 63), Bakic (M Vukcevic 75), Jovetic (Nikolic 43), Mugosa (Grbic 65).

June 8 - Borg El Arab
Egypt 2 (Mekky 19, El Gabbas 47)
Malawi 1 (Banda 64)
HT: 1-0

June 8 - Accra
Ghana 1 (B Mensah 36)
Togo 0
HT: 1-0
Ghana: Dauda - Rabiu (Schlupp 46), J Mensah, Boye, Atsu (Adomah 68), B Mensah (Gyan 65), Gyimah (Acquah 65), Wakaso, Acheampong (J Ayew 46), Rahman, Waris (Agyemang-Badu 46). *Sent off: Wakaso 79.*

June 8 - Valletta
Malta 2 (P Fenech 62, Effiong 80)
Lithuania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 950. **Ref:** Bindels (Lux)
Malta: Haber - Z Muscat, Agius, Camilleri, A Muscat (Herrera 56), Briffa (Kristensen 63), R Muscat (Schembri 89), P Fenech (Scicluna 80), Failla (Zerafa 82), Cohen (Effiong 60), Mifsud.
Lithuania: Gertmonas - Klimavicius (Kijanskas 46), Freidgeimas, D Cesnauskis (Andriuskevicius 88), Vaitkunas, Matulevicius (Spalvis 55), Mikoliunas, Luksa (S Stankevicius 83), Slivka (Baravykas 73), Kuklys (Sirgedas 46), Panka.

June 8 - Oslo
Norway 0
Sweden 0
Att: 26,659. **Ref:** Taylor (Eng)
Norway: Nyland - Nordtveit, Hogli, Forren, Tettey (Hovland 46), Skjelbred (T Elyounoussi 58), Odegaard, Elabdellaoui (Linnes 46), Nielsen (Helland 69), King (Soderlund 46), Johansen (Konradsen 86).
Sweden: Isaksson (Nordfeldt 74) - Wendt, J Olsson, P Bengtsson, Milosevic, S Larsson (Durmaz 75), Kallstrom (Wernbloom 63), Ekdal, Zengin (Forsberg 63), Ibrahimovic (Toivonen 63), Berg.

June 8 - Istanbul
Turkey 4 (Calhanoglu 49, 54, Burak 56, 80)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,200. **Ref:** Massa (Ita)
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Gokhan Gonul, Serdar, Semih, Emre Tasdemir, Volkan Sen (Mehmet Topal 46), Ozan (Muhammet 84), Arda (Sahan 69), Oztekin (Selcuk Inan 46), Calhanoglu (Ekici 78), Erdinc (Burak 46).
Bulgaria: Mitrev - Bandalovski, Bodurov (Terziev 68), Y Minev (Zanev 46), M Aleksandrov, I Popov (Malinov 76), Manolev (Chochev 61), Gadzhev (Tonev 61), Micanski (R Vasilev 78), Dyakov, A Aleksandrov.

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World Soccer's GREAT MATCHES

MAY 25, 2005, ATATURK STADIUM, ISTANBUL: UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

Liverpool 3 Milan 3

Rafa Benitez's Reds produce a stunning second-half fightback to come from three goals down to win on penalties

Equaliser...Alonso (centre)

It is still highly debatable whether Liverpool's remarkable achievement in turning around a 3-0 half-time deficit to draw 3-3 was down to tactical genius or sheer luck. Either way, the 120 minutes plus penalties that became known as "the wonder of Istanbul" have gone down in history.

As Keir Radnedge wrote in *World Soccer*: "Liverpool's fifth Champions Cup was secured by one of the most stirring comebacks in the history of Europe's most prestigious club event.

"This was not so much a match of two halves as a match of two days. Kick-off was at 9.45pm local time. Shevchenko's lacklustre concluding penalty was saved by Jerzy Dudek way past midnight. Thus on May 25 Milan had it won but come May 26 they had it lost."

With an ageing Milan three up at half-time, Liverpool players could hear their opponents already celebrating in the Ataturk dressing rooms during the interval. Rafa Benitez decided to make changes for the second half, switching to a back three, with Didier Hamann replacing Steve Finnan. Milan's danger man Kaka was shackled and the space in midfield closed down, allowing Steven Gerrard and Xabi Alonso more room to get forward.

With half an hour of normal time to go, Liverpool amazingly found themselves on level terms. Gerrard headed home the first eight minutes after the restart, and then Vladimir Smicer and Alonso pulled the Reds level in what Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti described as "six minutes of madness which I can't explain".

Heroic...Gerrard lifts trophy in Istanbul

Andriy Shevchenko had two chances in a matter of seconds to win the match for Milan in extra-time, but he was foiled by a remarkable double save by Jerzy Dudek. The Polish keeper then saved spot-kicks from Andrea Pirlo and Shevchenko as Liverpool snatched victory. WS

Referee: Gonzalez (Spa)

KEY MOMENTS

Opener...Maldini (far right) puts Milan ahead

1 min Andrea Pirlo's free-kick is volleyed home by Paolo Maldini. **0-1**

14 mins Hernan Crespo's header from a Clarence Seedorf corner is cleared off the line by Luis Garcia.

29 mins Andriy Shevchenko has the ball in the net but is ruled offside.

38 mins With Liverpool appealing for a handball in the Milan area, a counter-attack sees Kaka feed Shevchenko whose cross is turned in by Crespo. **0-2**

43 mins A delightful pass by Kaka is finished by Crespo, who chips Jerzy Dudek. **0-3**

53 mins Steven Gerrard heads home a John Arne Riise cross. **1-3**

55 mins A patient Liverpool build-up is finished off by a low shot from Vladimir Smicer which is helped into

Momentum...Gerrard starts the fightback

the net by goalkeeper Dida. **2-3**

59 mins After Gerrard is fouled, Xabi Alonso sees his penalty saved before he scrambles home the rebound. **3-3**

117 mins In extra-time, Dudek's double save from Shevchenko to keep Liverpool in the game.

Penalties Serginho and Pirlo miss Milan's first two kicks as Liverpool lead **2-0**. Riise's kick is saved as Jon Dahl Tomasson and Kaka level at **2-2**. Smicer makes it **3-2** and Shevchenko's kick is saved by Dudek to hand Liverpool victory.

Extra-time...Dudek saves

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